GC 紅王子 5

桑原草太

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SQUARE ENIX.

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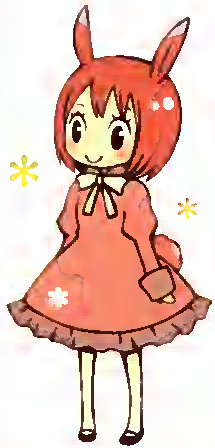

桑原草太

SOUTA KUWAHARA

The other day, I bought a rabbit-shaped incense set and a matching shirt. Next time, I'll take a rabbit bag. I admit it; what I really want is a real bunny!

KURÉNAÏ OUJI

GANGAN COMICS

5

紅くないおうじ

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紅の王子

くれないのおうじ

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5

クワハラ ソウタ

桑原草太

CONTENTS

CHAPTER 20 Guided feelings 003

CHAPTER 21 In your eyes 035

CHAPTER 22 Before sleeping 057

CHAPTER 23 The doorbell is ringing 089

CHAPTER 24 An irreplaceable person 119

CHAPTER 25 Sakura 149

BRR...
IT'S FREEZING...
JEEZ
HE SURE IS GIVING ME A HARD TIME...
DAMN IT...

CHAPTER 20 GUIDED FEELINGS

VAN-
ISHED...
I THOUGHT I HADN'T SEEN HIM OFTEN SINCE THEN...
IT LOOKS LIKE
THAT IDIOT
AFTER MY BROTHER AND SISTER'S...
LITTLE VISIT
1-5
BUT I HAD NO IDEA HE HAD COM-PLETELY DIS-APPEARED!
REAL-LY?
SHIRO ISN'T HERE?
NO, IT'S BEEN TWO WEEKS SINCE WE SAW HIM!
I WONDER WHY?
TELL ME WHERE HE'S HIDING RIGHT NOW!
WHAT?
SLIDE
KNOWING HIM, I'M SURE HE'S UP TO NO GOOD...
COME ON, SPIT IT OUT!
HEY, WAIT!
I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING EITHER!

I WAS POSITIVE THE TWO OF YOU WERE GOOD FRIENDS!
SO YOU'RE TELLING THE TRUTH ...
MY BRACELET IS NOT REACTING,
BUT... IT'S STILL WEIRD...
YOU DON'T KNOW WHERE HE IS?
I'M NOT HIS MOTHER!
OF COURSE NOT, WHY SHOULD I KNOW?
NEVERMIND. I'LL FIND HIM MYSELF!
FRIENDS?
THE TWO OF US!..?
DO WE GIVE OFF THAT IMPRESSION?
WELL ..
IT IS TRUE THAT, AS DEMONS, WE COULD BE CONSIDERED AS ALLIES..
BUT IF YOU THINK ABOUT OUR POSITIONS, IT'S IMPOSSIBLE...
AFTER ALL...

WHY DID HE DISAPPEAR...
SO SUDDENLY?
IT'S ALREADY BEEN A WEEK.
HE CAME HERE
WITH THE INTENTION TO KILL ME!
NO...
GASP
DON'T TELL ME...
IT'S RELATED TO...
HIIII!
JIRO?
SFX stumble!
You scared me.
YO, YOSHI-I NO?
DON'T JUST STAND AT THE CLASSROOM'S ENTRANCE, YOU'RE IN THE WAY!
AH, SORRY
BY THE WAY...

AH, YOU DON'T?
HOW SHOULD I KNOW?
SO I WAS WONDERING IF HE'S BEEN SKIPPING
IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE I'VE SEEN HIM...
WHAT?
SO WHAT'S ISSA UP TO NOW?
HUH...
I THOUGHT THAT IF ANYONE, YOU'D KNOW!
HUH?
WELL, IT'S OBVIOUS..
AND WHY'S.. THAT..?
GOOD GRIEF!
FIRST "FRIENDS" AND NOW "BUDDIES"..
BECAUSE YOU TWO GET ALONG SO WELL!

.....
I NEVER MEANT TO HANG OUT WITH HIM
BUT SAYING WE'RE FRIENDS...
I'LL ADMIT THAT HE'S OFTEN BY MY SIDE...
SO
THERE'S NO REASON..
THAT I SHOULD BE AWARE...
OR EVEN WHAT HE HAS ON HIS MIND
WHAT A MISUNDER-STANDING...
HERE, WE ARE WHAT WE WANT TO SHOW TO THE HUMANS...
I'M SURE THAT THE ISSA FROM THIS WORLD IS DIFFERENT FROM WHAT HE IS IN REALITY.
WHETHER IT'S HIS APPEARANCE, BEHAVIOUR, THE WAY HE TALKS...
RATTLE
Ian
OF HIS SLIGHTEST MOVEMENTS!
AH! YOU WERE HERE!
sliiide

I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR YOU EVERYWHERE AREN'T YOU COLD?
WHAT, YOU'RE STILL HERE?
OF COURSE, I WAS LOOKING FOR YOU!
OH...
MORE IMPORTANTLY... DID YOU FIND ISSA?
NO...
HE'S NOT AT HIS DORM...
AND I DON'T SEE WHERE HE COULD HAVE GONE...
IT REMAINS A POSSIBILITY
MAYBE HE DID THE SAME THING AS ME...
THAT HE HAS GONE BACK TO THE DEMON WORLD
WHAT?
NO, NOTHING...
...
IN ANY CASE, YOU SHOULDN'T STAY HERE FOR TOO LONG!
NIGHT FALLS QUICKLY THESE DAYS.
AND YOU'LL CATCH A COLD IF YOU STAY OUT!
(right?)

HUH?
LOCK
SLIDE
FIRST, I MUST GO TO..
NOT YET...
YOU'RE NOT GOING HOME?
AND WHAT ABOUT YOU?
Jingle
IS ANYONE THERE?!
There are two people here!!
BANG
OPEN UP!!!
BANG
BANG
TOO BAD GEE ISN'T HERE, HE COULD HAVE OPENED THE DOOR...
WHAT A NIGHT MARE!!
HOW TROUBLE-SOME.
WE'RE STUCK HERE?
Shudder
FWOOSH
LOOKS LIKE IT
Oh my
TOO LATE...
UGH
THAT MEANS

WHAT?
SHE LEFT THIS MORNING FOR A THREE-DAYS HOT SPRINGS TRIP WITH THE NEIGHBORHOOD COMMITTEE..
THAT'S WHY I WANTED TO GIVE YOU THE KEY.
REAL-LY?
.....
IF ONLY LIFE WAS THAT SIMPLE..
SHE REALLY HAS THE WORST TIMING!
IF I HAD BEEN ALONE, I COULD HAVE JUST FLOWN HOME
Haah
WELL..
YOUR GRANDMOTHER WILL END UP CALLING THE SCHOOL IF WE'RE HERE LONG ENOUGH...
I WAS GOING TO GO TO THE HOSPITAL~~~
W-WELL~
What's special today?
YOU USUALLY GO STRAIGHT HOME
I DON'T UNDERSTAND...
I HAVE TO SEE SOMEONE.
WHY?
YES...
..THE HOSPITAL?

I REMEMBER NOW
HER MOM HAS BEEN IN THE HOSPITAL SINCE FOREVER
MY MOTHER...
HER MOTHER IS HOSPITAL-IZED.....
AH...
.....
AH
I DIDN'T INTEND TO STAY LONG..
I SHOULD HAVE JUST GONE STRAIGHT THERE!
Guess I made the wrong decision.
.....
SO NOW IT'S MY FAULT WE'RE STUCK HERE?
HA HA HA....
Of course not
HANA HASN'T

SINCE THE DAY WE MET
MENTIONED HER PARENTS
EVEN NOW
IT CAME OUT ONLY BECAUSE I ASKED HER ABOUT IT.
SHE HAS NEVER TRIED TO TALK ABOUT HER PARENTS
SINCE IT HASN'T COME UP IN CONVERSATIONS I COMPLETELY FORGOT ABOUT IT...
RATHER THAN IT NOT COMING UP,
IT'S MORE LIKE IT WAS NEVER BROUGHT UP...
I THINK WE'VE BOTH BEEN SUBCONSCIOUSLY AVOIDING TALKING ABOUT OUR PARENTS
AND HAVE DONE OUR BEST TO NOT ASK ABOUT IT.
BUT

REVEALING THE TRUTH
ONLY BORN FROM AN "IMITATION" OF THE FAMILY
I ENDED UP
I WONDER...
WHAT SHE THOUGHT AT THE TIME...
fwoo
AAA AH...
IT'S FREE— ZING!!
ooosh

.....
IF IT WAS SNOWING, THE COLD WOULD BE MORE TOLERABLE...
AT LEAST ..
IT WOULD BE WORSE INSTEAD!
Idiot!
WHAT A COLD WIND!
I'M FREE-ZING!
.....
WE COULD FLY HOME LIKE BIRDS!
WE HAD WINGS...
IF ONLY
ATTACK OF THE
Sunday morning 7:30am
Where there's will..
there's a way!
WELL, THAT'S WHAT HAPPENS ON TV AT LEAST..
THE COLD HAS MADE HER BRAIN GO FUNNY...
Normally this is where the Go Inners step in
IT'S ALWAYS...
IN DESPERATE SITUATIONS LIKE THIS..
THAT A HERO COMES OUT FROM NOWHERE!!
I.. GUESS..
RIGHT?
PERSON WHO CAN FLY HOME.

A PRINCE CHARMING COMING TO SAVE...
HIS PRINCESS!
OR EVEN...
SHI
Prince...
NE
.....
Prince...
....HUH?

She's calling you!
BA
DUMP
NG
Ah!
DUN
!?
...WHAT IS THIS VOICE IN MY HEAD...
DUN
DUN
"KURE-NAI"?
DUN
NO, IT'S NOT LIKE THE OTHER TIMES!
BEFORE, IT WAS A WOMAN'S VOICE...
I've always been waiting...
BUT NOW...
HE HE...
I TRIED IMITATING THE CLASS REP!
My voice!
The festival is long over though!

WH...
WHAT?
HMM...
STA
RE
EH...?
ANYWAY, AS IF THINGS WOULD GO THAT SMOOTHLY~
RIGHT, JIRO?
IS THAT IT?
YOU'RE IMPLYING THAT YOU CAN'T RELY ON ME...
I SEE
fweesh
tee hee
"ONLY HAVE THE LOOKS OF A PRINCE"..
EVERYONE SAYS THAT YOU
KURENAI...
Hey!
THIS FEELING..
IT'S HAPPENING AGAIN!
badump
BADUMP
badump
IT'S JUST THAT WE'RE ALL POWERLESS IN THIS KIND OF SITUATION!
OF COURSE NOT, THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT...
!
THROB

I CAN
GET US OUT OF HERE.
Prince!
It's an opportunity...
that you must not miss
She's been calling you, right?
Go a little now
What are you waiting for?
Hurry up!

HUH?
JIRO?
...HUH
WHAT DID I JUST... SAY?
.....
HA HA~ JEEZ~~
I SAID I WAS SORRY!
IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT WE'RE STUCK HERE~
pat
OKAY?
I was kid-ding
HANA
YES?
WHO'S VOICE...
IS THAT?
ba-dump
ba-dump

CAN IT BE...
EH
WHAT DID I JUST SAY?
WOW...
HER HANDS ARE FROZEN!
STARTLED
!
IF THIS CONTINUES SHE WILL GET SICK...
AAH...
your hands are warm!
Lucky you!

HUH ?!
Brush
SO, WHAT THEY SAY IS TRUE! GIRLS ARE MORE SENSITIVE TO THE COLD THAN BOYS.
Ahaha!
THANKS, BUT...
YOU CAN LET GO NOW!
They're cold aren't they?

Don't let go!
I'm sure you understand why
Prince
WHO ARE YOU?
Just do what needs to be done.
I want
ba-dump
She's calling you!
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
WHO?
This girl
HANA?
ba-dump
She wants something
...WHAT IS IT?

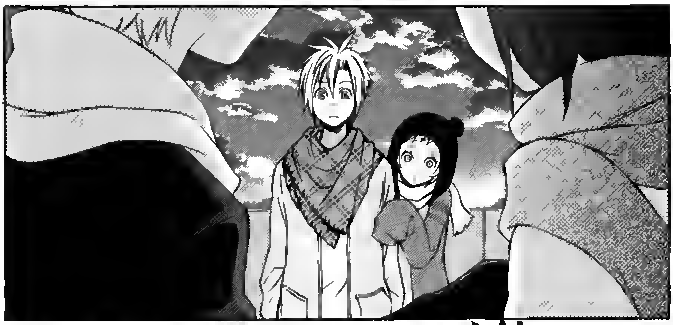
HANA
IF I WAS A PRINCE, WHAT WOULD YOU DO?
.....
WHAT?
IF I TOLD YOU THAT I WAS ABLE TO FLY...
AND TO SAVE YOU...
WHAT WOULD YOU DO?

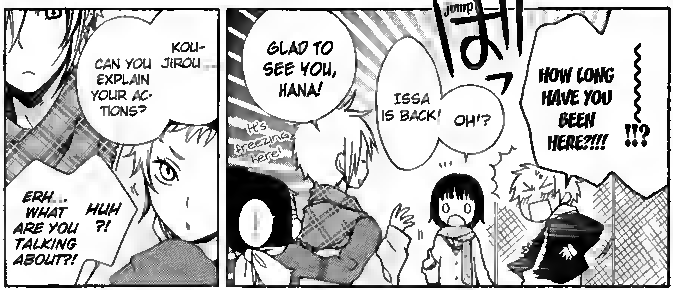
You, of course!

ba-dump

I'M PERFECTLY FINE..
WHAT'S WRONG?
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
PULL
YOU, ON THE OTHER HAND...

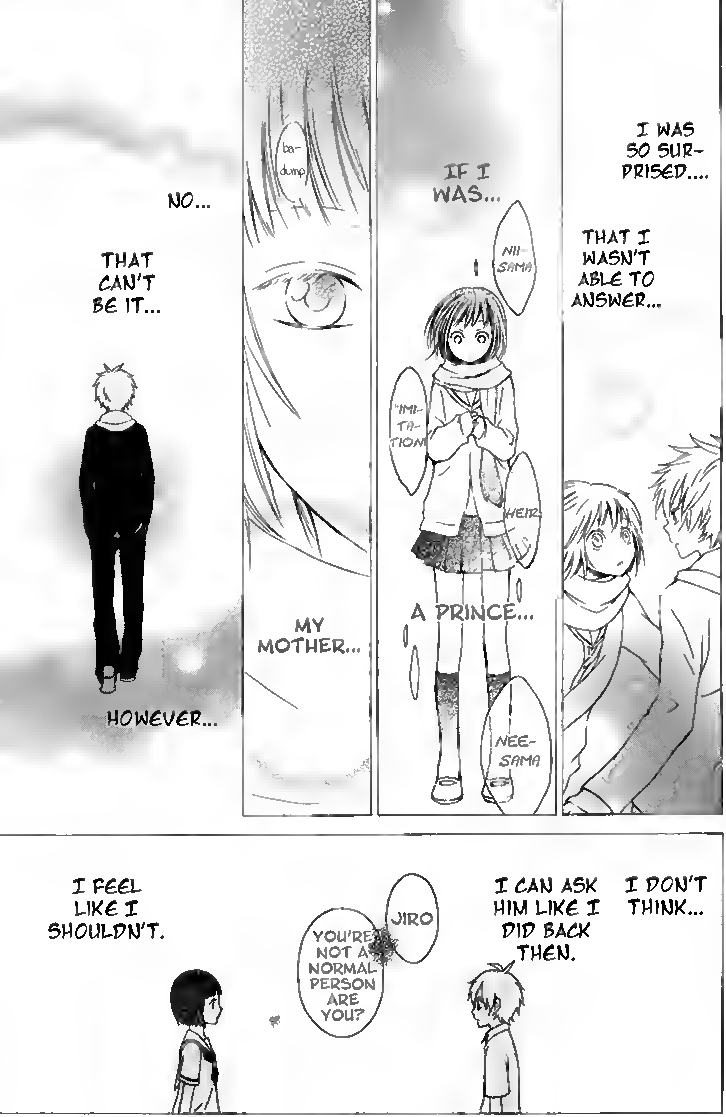
ARE NOT.
ba-dump
ba-dump
ba-dump
WHAT ARE YOU TWO DOING?
ba-dump



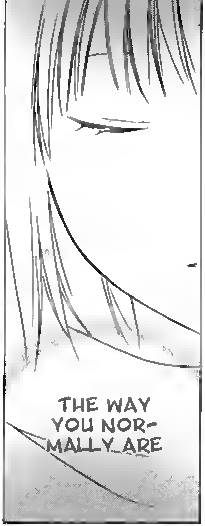

KOU-JIROU...
CAN YOU EXPLAIN YOUR ACTIONS?
ERH... WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?!
HUH?!
GLAD TO SEE YOU, HANA!
He's freezing here!
ISSA IS BACK!
OH!?
Jump!
HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN HERE?!!!
!!?

I CAN GET US OUT OF HERE.
JUST LIKE BEFORE, AFTER I HEARD THAT VOICE...
I ACTED UNCONSCIOUSLY...
IT HAPPENED AGAIN...
YOU, ON THE OTHER HAND... ARE NOT!
IF I WAS A PRINCE, WHAT WOULD YOU DO?

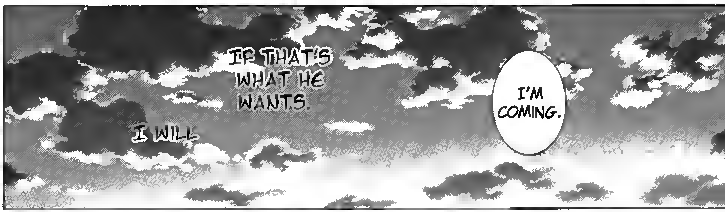
I JUST
SAID (AND DID) SOME WEIRD STUFF...!
N...NOTHING AT ALL, WHY?!
LIAR!
AHH!
Calm down you two
AAH!
.....
NOW NOW...
LET'S CONTINUE THIS CONVERSATION SOMEWHERE WARMER!
YES
LET'S GO!
NOT SO FAST!
WHERE DID YOU COME FROM?!
OK, OK, WE'LL EXPLAIN LATER
YEAH
IF I WAS A PRINCE, WHAT WOULD YOU DO?
Come on, hurry up!
It's so freezing here.
Let me go.
.....
Okay, I'm coming!


NO...
THAT CAN'T BE IT...
HOWEVER...
ba-dump
MY MOTHER...
IF I WAS...
NII-SAMA
"IMI-TA-TION"
HEIR
A PRINCE...
NEE-SAMA
I WAS SO SUR-PRISED....
THAT I WASN'T ABLE TO ANSWER...
I FEEL LIKE I SHOULDN'T.
YOU'RE NOT A NORMAL PERSON ARE YOU?
JIRO
I CAN ASK HIM LIKE I DID BACK THEN.
I DON'T THINK...

HANA
AH!
LET'S GO!

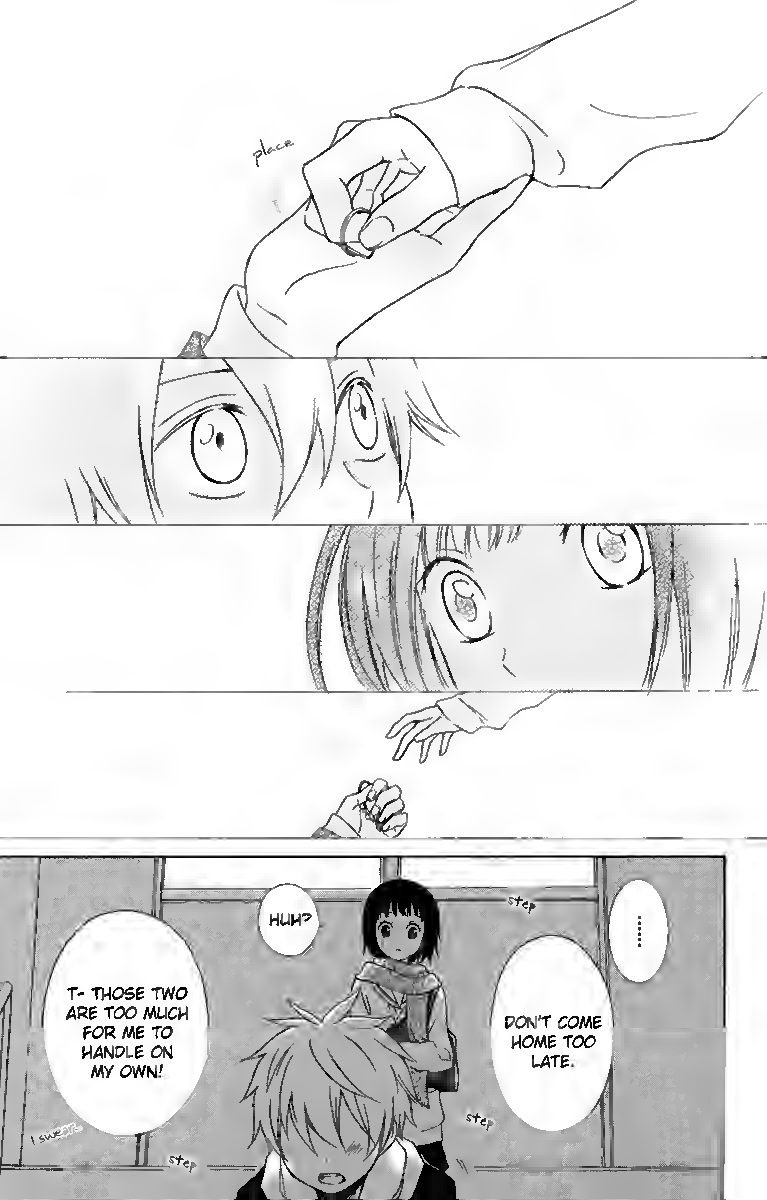

THE WAY YOU NORMALLY ARE

IF SO...
THE WAY YOU NORMALLY ARE... IS THE BEST


IF THAT'S WHAT HE WANTS.
I WILL.
I'M COMING.

AND I'LL GO TO THE MARKET AFTERWARDS.
YES ..
YOU STILL WANT TO GO TO THE HOSPITAL?
HERE, THIS IS THE KEY!

AH...
STAY "NORMAL"
BY THE WAY, JIRO

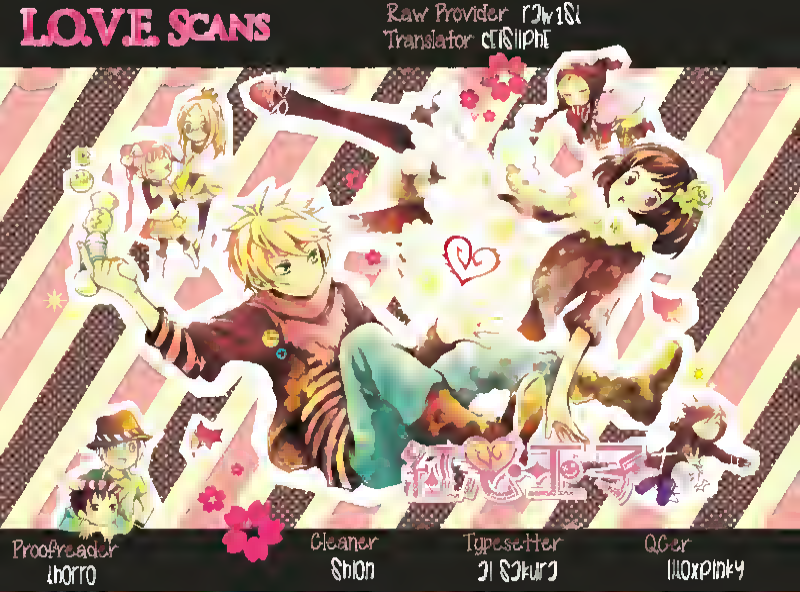

place
HUH?
step
T- THOSE TWO ARE TOO MUCH FOR ME TO HANDLE ON MY OWN!
DON'T COME HOME TOO LATE.
step
step

HE COULD HAVE JUST TOLD ME
TO HURRY BACK BE-CAUSE IT'S COLD!
SEE YOU LATER!
GOOD GRIEF...
.....
OKAY
THIS "PRINCE" JUST C. N'T BE HONEST, CAN HE?
Back home
YOU TOOK YOUR TIME!
What were you doing?
So this is where you were
WHAT THE HELL HAVE YOU BEEN DOING!?

L.O.V.E Scans

Raw Provider [illegible]

Translator [illegible]



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CHAPTER 21 IN YOUR EYES

紅王子
くれないおうじ

YOUR
IN
DREAMS!
YOU'LL
GO
BACK!
AND I FIND IT WEIRD THAT YOU'RE LIVING WITH A GIRL!!
You- er- Very!
munch
I'm just a guest here!
munch
WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?!
EXCUSE ME?!
Complain
I- I DON'T HAVE A CHOICE, YOU KNOW!
WH...
I KNOW IT'S HANA'S HOUSE!
Complain

I AM SO SORRYYYY!!
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING?!
I saw this coming.

BY THE WAY, AYA-CHAN...
DIDN'T YOU HAVE SOMETHING IMPORTANT TO SAY TO KOU-JIROU?
You should start with that
AH!
HUH?

REN-TAROU AND NADESHIKO?
WELL... IT DOESN'T REALLY... BOTHER ME...
EH. WHY ARE YOU HIDING?
STA
RE

KOUJIROU!
ARE YOU SURE YOU'RE OKAY?
WHY?
YOU... YOU'RE NOT ANGRY?
IT'S MY FAULT IF THEY FIND YOU... RIGHT?
DO NOT FORGET.
YOUR PLACE ON THE THRONE, I'LL SNATCH IT!
WE WON'T LET YOU OFF LIGHTLY...
IF YOU STRAY FROM THE PATH YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO WALK
EVERY TIME I THINK ABOUT THEM
MY HEART ACHES.
I WON'T BE ABLE TO LIE TO MYSELF... FOR MUCH LONGER.
NO... I'M NOT FINE AT ALL...
DO NOT FORGET.

I'M... QUITE CONFIDENT THAT I CAN BE YOUR "REAL" FAMILY
BUT
ODDLY ENOUGH
I HAVE THE FEELING
THIS PLACE CAN'T IT BECOME A PLACE TO GO, YOUR HOME?
THAT FOR THE MOMENT...
WELL...
I CAN MANAGE.
WE'LL SEE!

"WE'LL SEE"... ARE YOU SERIOUS?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN...
AH...
IT'S HAPPENING AGAIN...
AGAIN, HE...
...IT'S THOSE TWO WE'RE DEALING WITH!

SHUD
DER
HAS AN EXPRESSION I'VE NEVER SEEN BEFORE
I THOUGHT YOU WERE TERRIFIED OF THEM!
SO-SORRY...
BUT I WORRY ABOUT YOU!
YOU KNOW YOUR SISTER...
AYATO
I'LL TELL YOU AGAIN, I'M FINE.
WHO DO YOU THINK I AM?

THAT AFTER THEY CAME...
KOUJIROU WOULD COME BACK TO THE DEMON WORLD!
THAT'S WHY...
I THOUGHT...
THAT WAS HIS "PRINCE" EXPRESSION
SORRY
WHEN IT CAME TO THOSE TWO.
HE WAS ALWAYS UNABLE TO KEEP HIS TEMPER!

NO WAY!
NOW YOU KNOW THERE'S NO PROBLEM, YOU CAN GO BACK!
SIGH
FINALLY...
WHY...

DID YOU CHANGE SO MUCH?
I TOO...
IT'S JUST THAT...
YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND
Ugh, come on here!!
KEEP IT UP, YOU... AND SOMETHING BAD WILL HAPPEN TO YOU!!
Pissed off
CHK CHK
What a paaain

WHY CAN'T YOU BE SATISFIED WITH BEING A PRINCE?
I DON'T WANT TO OBEY MY FAMILY!!
I DON'T WANT TO GO BACK IF YOU'RE NOT THERE!!
AYA...
I WON'T GO BACK...
WITHOUT YOU!
AND THAT'S ALL!!
DASH
HEY WAIT...
YOU PER-VERT!
WHAT DOES THAT HAVE TO DO WITH ANYTHING!!
.....
step
step
step

I TOO DON'T WANT TO OBEY MY FAMILY!!
TO WHAT HE HAS TO SAY?
WHY DON'T YOU TRY LISTEN-ING...
DAMN
WHY IS HE SO STUB-BORN?!
WELL, CALM DOWN FIRST.
WHAT A MESS..
.....
LOOKS LIKE AYA-CHAN
ALSO HAS HIS OWN PROB-LEMS...
STAND
SEE YOU~!
HE'S SUCH A PAIN SOME-TIMES...
GOOD LUCK!

...AYA?
CLUNK
STILL NO-THING...
NOT HERE...
ANY-ONE .?
EVEN IF IT'S JUST HANA, SNEAKING INTO A GIRL'S ROOM IS WRONG
EH NO... I SHOULDN'T DO THAT...
VM
MM
IS HANA'S ROOM...
.....
I CAN'T FIND HIM ANY-WHERE
BUT KNOWING HIM, HE PROB-ABLY DIDN'T LEAVE THE HOUSE...
ALL THAT'S LEFT

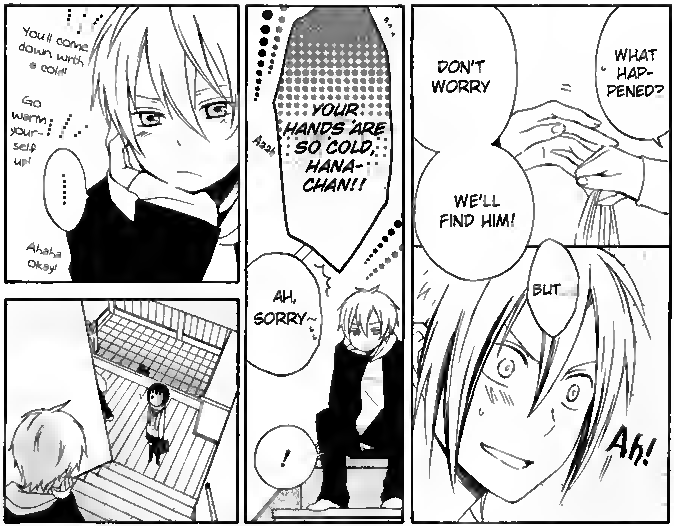
NO MATTER HOW MUCH I SEARCH, I'D NEVER FIND HIM!
IF HE DECIDED TO BECOME INVISIBLE...
I JUST CAN'T SEE HIM ANY-MORE.
MAYBE...
WAIT A MIN-UTE...
BUT..
ON THE OTHER HAND, IT'S THE ONLY PART OF THE HOUSE I HAVEN'T ALREADY SEARCHED...
PANIC
ENOUGH, AYA!
I KNOW YOU'RE HERE, SO SHOW YOURSELF!
TAP
TAP
TSK...
HE REALLY CAN BE A PAIN WHEN HE WANTS TO...
UNDER-STOOD?!

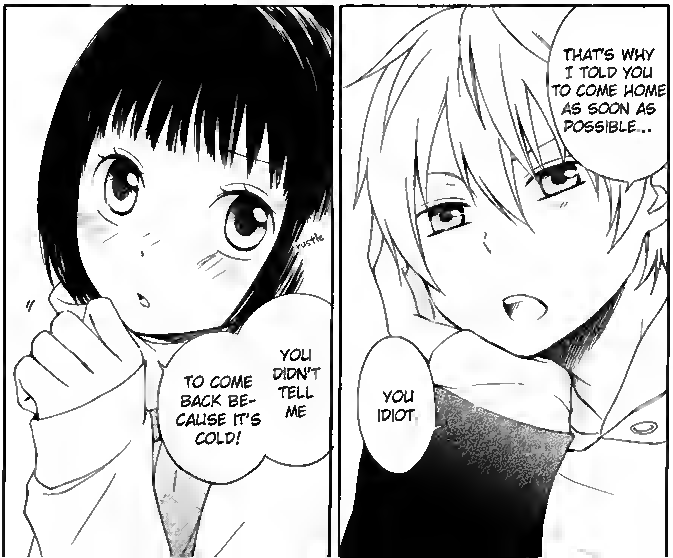
IT'S OVER...
HE CAN'T SEE ME ANYMORE...
IT'S JUST AS I THOUGHT...

HE WON'T FIND ME ANYMORE...

I SHOUTED GEEZ. AT THE TOP OF MY VOICE ALL OVER THE HOUSE AND STILL NO ANSWER!
I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO NOW.
HE'S SO DIFFERENT FROM THE AYA I USED TO KNOW
BEFORE, HE WAS LESS CHILDISH, MORE DIRECT AND...
HE WOULD NEVER GO INVISIBLE IN FRONT OF ME.
WHEN DID HE CHANGE?
I HAVE NO IDEA...
OH?
JIRO?

JUST AN END-LESS GAME OF HIDE AND SEEK..
HUH?
HANA?
I'M BACK...
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
EH!
HI, HANA!
I heard your voice and came out to see you!
ISSA-KUN!
GLAD TO SEE THAT YOU'RE STILL HERE!
SINCE MY GRANDMOTHER IS NOT HERE, I THOUGHT THAT WE COULD EAT ALL TOGETHER!
REAL-LY?
ME TOO?
YES, OF COURSE!
BY THE WAY
ERH.. AYATO-KUN, WAS IT?
AH...
Give me your name or I'll tell you!
Thanks!
AYA-CHAN? WELL..
JIRO IS LOOKING FOR HIM RIGHT NOW
REAL-LY?

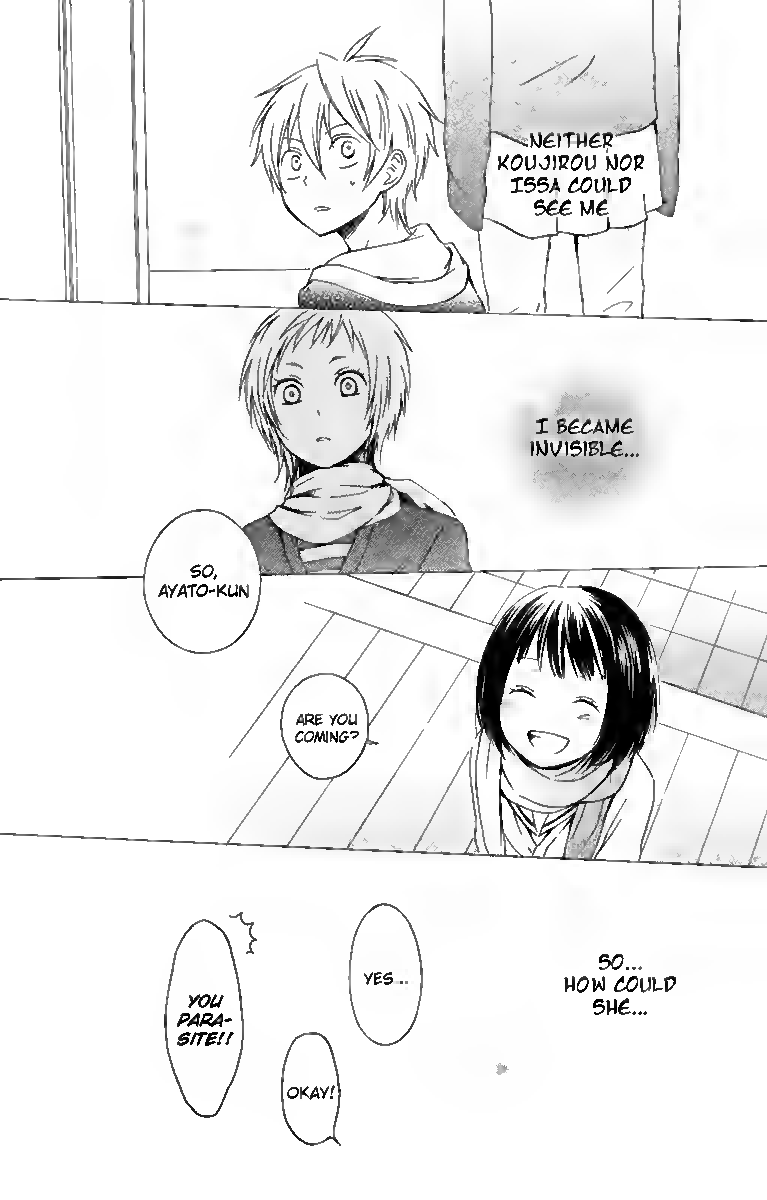

You'll come down with a cold!
Go warm your- self up!
Ahaha Okay!
YOUR HANDS ARE SO COLD, HANA-CHAN!!
Aaaa
AH, SORRY~
!
WHAT HAP-PENED?
DON'T WORRY
WE'LL FIND HIM!
BUT
Ah!


rustle
YOU DIDN'T TELL ME
TO COME BACK BE-CAUSE IT'S COLD!
THAT'S WHY I TOLD YOU TO COME HOME AS SOON AS POSSIBLE...
YOU IDIOT

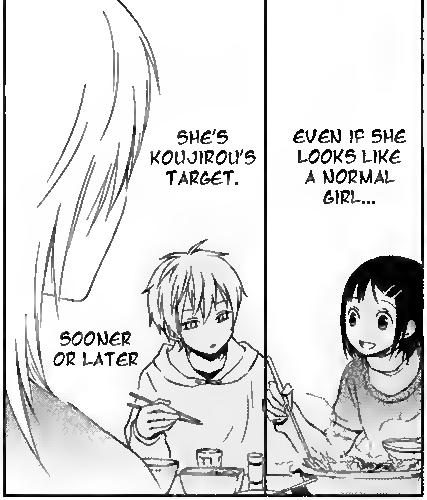
AYATO-KUN?
DO YOU WANT TO EAT TOGETHER WITH US..
What are you saying?
HUH?
NOTHING, NEVER MIND!
Ah
BY THE WAY....
OF COURSE, WHO ELSE..
COULD IT BE?
YOU KNOW, I DON'T KNOW IF AYA..
HE DOESN'T WANT TO?
EH...
IS SHE TALKING TO ME?
Ah!
HUH?!

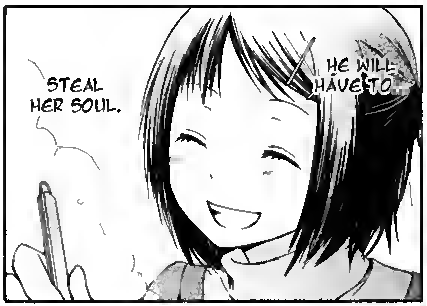
I BOUGHT HEAPS YOU KNOW~
IT WILL BE READY IN NO TIME!
HOW ABOUT IT?
COME ON, SINCE YOU'RE HERE YOU SHOULD JOIN US
AYATO-KUN
BUT, IF YOU HAVE OTHER PLANS...
...HANA
YES?
.....
JUST...
WHO ARE YOU TALKING TO?
?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN "WHO"?
AYATO-KUN...
...OF COURSE!

I DON'T UNDER-STAND...
HANA... ARE YOUR EYES PLAYING TRICKS ON YOU?
WHAT IS SHE TALKING ABOUT?
AT THIS MOMENT, AYATO IS
HUH?
AYA...
EVEN YOU... WERE UNABLE TO SEE ME.


NEITHER KOUJIROU NOR ISSA COULD SEE ME
I BECAME INVISIBLE...
SO, AYATO-KUN
ARE YOU COMING?
SO... HOW COULD SHE...
YES..
YOU PARA-SITE!!
OKAY!

STA
Jiro pass the salt~
Wait a second
YES?
JIRO!
whisper
PSST
RE
I FEEL LIKE I'M BEING OBSERVED ..
Did I do something to him?
whisper
STA
RE
whisper
EH
IT'S NOTHING... HE'S ALWAYS BEEN A LITTLE WEIRD
REAL-LY?
I'M WORRIED ABOUT KOUJIROU BUT...


SHE'S KOUJIROU'S TARGET.
EVEN IF SHE LOOKS LIKE A NORMAL GIRL...
SOONER OR LATER


STEAL HER SOUL.
HE WILL HAVE TO

.....
DOES SHE HAVE SOME SORT OF SPECIAL POWER...?
Hey Hana? You know I don't like these!
What?

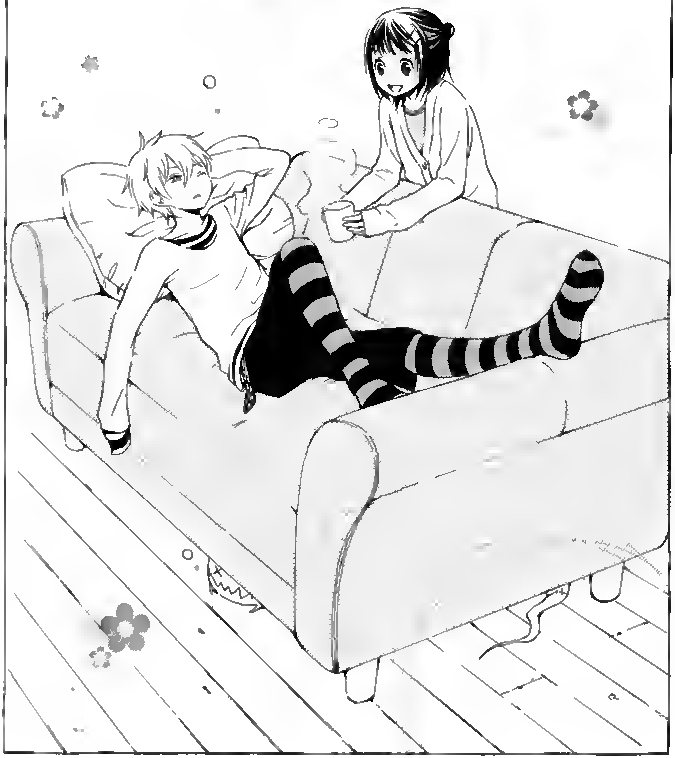
THIS GIRL HAS ALSO INTRIGUED ME...
I DON'T SEE ANY-THING!
HOW CAN THIS BE HAPPEN-ING?
EVER SINCE BACK THEN...

I CAN'T FIGURE THIS OUT BY JUST LOOKING!
RAWR
CRASH
AAAAAAH, SO ANNOYING!
SHOCK
HMMM
You have to eat everything!
Here take it!
I said I stop!
SO..
PAUSE
HUH?!
ARE YOU CRAZY?!
EH...
YES, NO PROBLEM..
WHAT?!
ARE YOU REALLY SURE ABOUT THIS?!!
CAN I SLEEP HERE TONIGHT?

ABOUT YOU.
IF I WANT TO HELP KOUJIROU...
I ABSOLUTELY NEED TO...
LEARN MORE..
WELL, WELL... THIS IS GETTING INTERESTING!
Can I join you?
BUT HANA... YOU WON'T...
IT DOESN'T MATTER, GRANDMOTHER IS NOT HERE AND THERE ARE PLENTY OF FREE ROOMS...
Also, it's pretty late already...
So it's decided, tonight we're... staying over!!
WAIT A MINUTE!
IT'S NOT UP TO YOU!!

RAW PROVIDER rawlat CLEANER Shion
TRANSLATOR Celsilphe TYPESETTER Ai Sakura
PROOFREADER thorro QCER Introspinky
紅の王子
くれないのおうじ

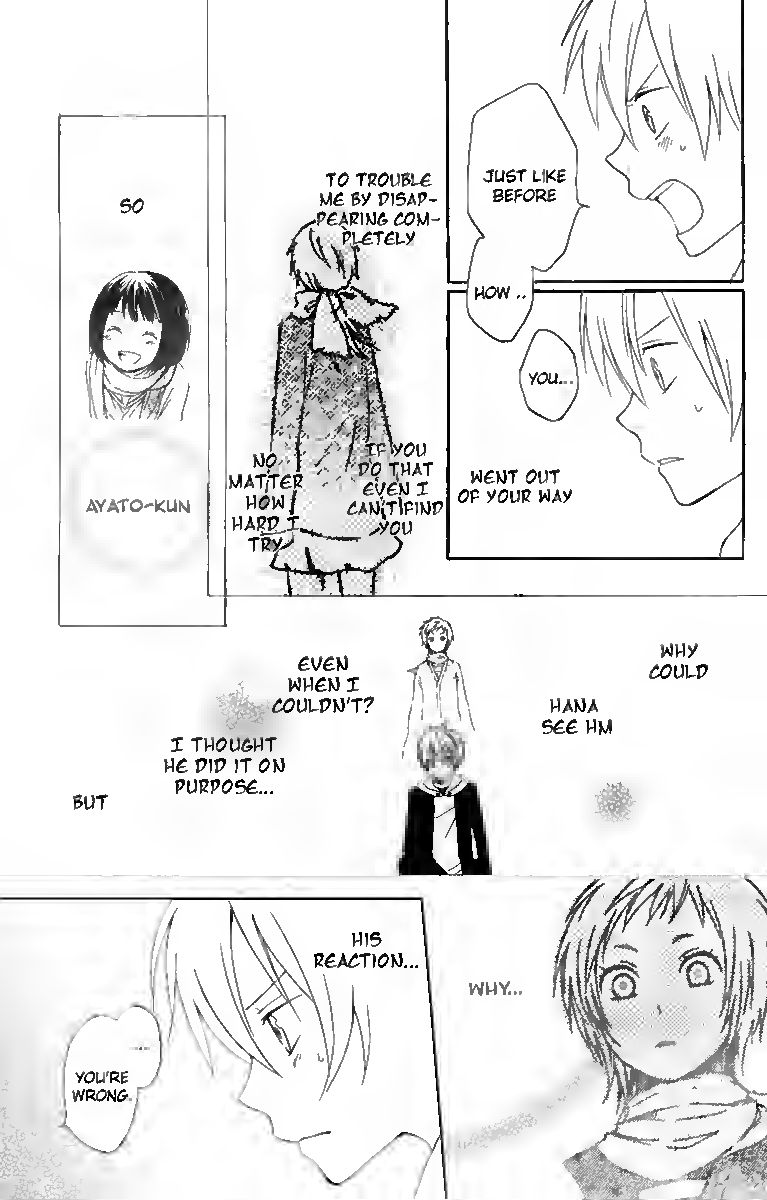
CHAPTER 22 BEFORE SLEEPING



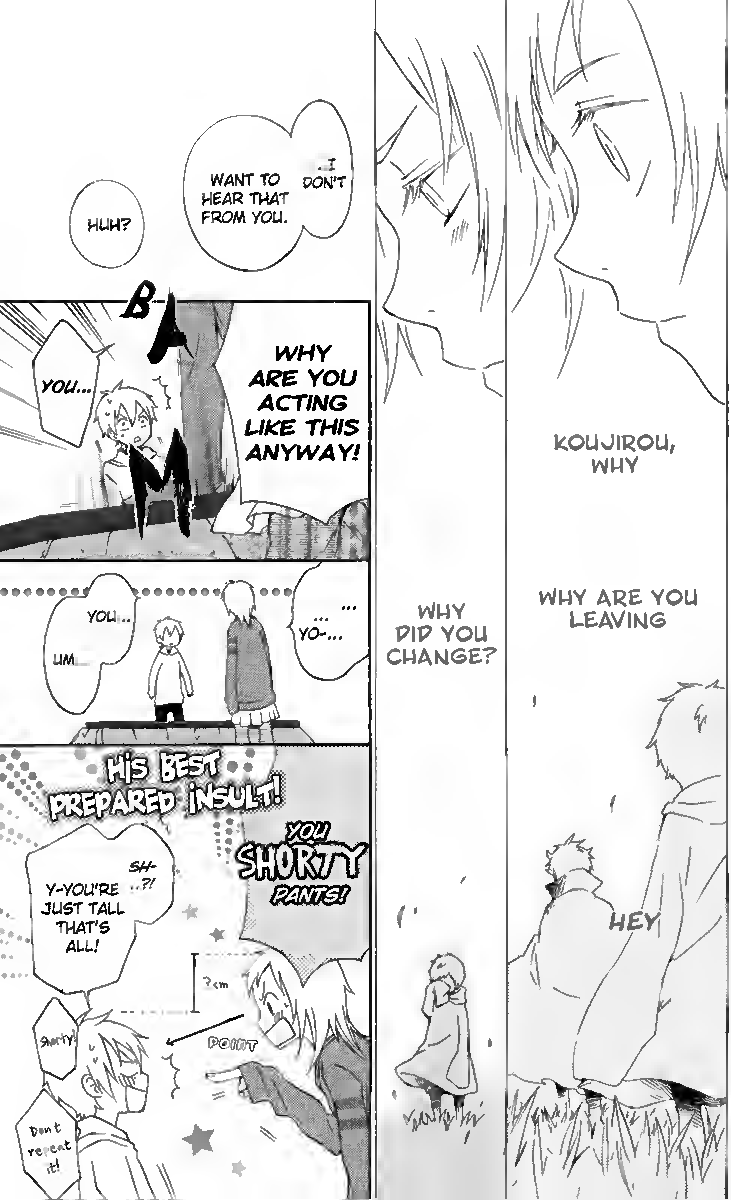
HU—H? BUT HAVING A BATH BEFORE A GIRL DOESN'T FEEL RIGHT—
I'M FINE WITH GOING LAST!
DON'T WORRY ABOUT US AND JUST GO AHEAD!
YOU TWO ARE GUESTS, SO YOU SHOULD TAKE A BATH FIRST.
L-LIKE I SAID—
JUST HURRY UP AND TAKE ONE, HANA.
BUT-
IT'S FINEE
Geez
UH, I BUT...
KAAY HAVE FUN!
I'LL BE GOING TOO
THEN—
tap tap
step
step
step
...
step
step
.. THEN I'LL TAKE YOU UP ON THAT OFFER..
AND USE THE BATH FIRST
KAAY HAVE FU~~~N

HEY—
HOLD UP!!
WHERE THE HELL DO YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING?
GR
AB
GUYS~ WHAT ARE YOU DOING~
MORE LIKE WHAT WERE YOU PLANNING ON DOING?!
TAKE A BATH OF COURSE...
BUT HANA-CHAN IS TAKING ONE RIGHT NOW!
YEAH WE'LL GO TOGETHER..
THAT MAKES IT EVEN WORSE.
AYA..
COULD IT BE THAT YOU'VE..
COME HERE TO CAUSE TROUBLE?
huh?
WHAT? NO WAY.
let go
WELL WERE CURRENTLY PRETTY DAMNED TROUBLED...
NOW NOW
ANY-WAYS...
I'M GOING TO ASK THIS WHILE HANA ISN'T HERE.

...
...
COULD IT BE
THAT SOMETHING HAPPENED IN THE DEMON WORLD...?
I TOO DON'T WANT TO OBEY MY FAMILY!!
WHAT...WERE THOSE WORDS YOU SAID BEFORE SUPPOSED TO MEAN?
SIGH
...I GET IT.
IF YOU DON'T WANT TO SAY ANYTHING THAT'S FINE...
HOWEVER...
WHAT'S WITH THIS SLEEPING OVER BUSINESS!!
FROM WHAT I CAN TELL, ALL YOU'RE DOING IS HAVING FUN WHILE CAUSING ME TROUBLE!
Well!?
Shiro don't just go jumping on board with the idea too!
Soooorry
BAM

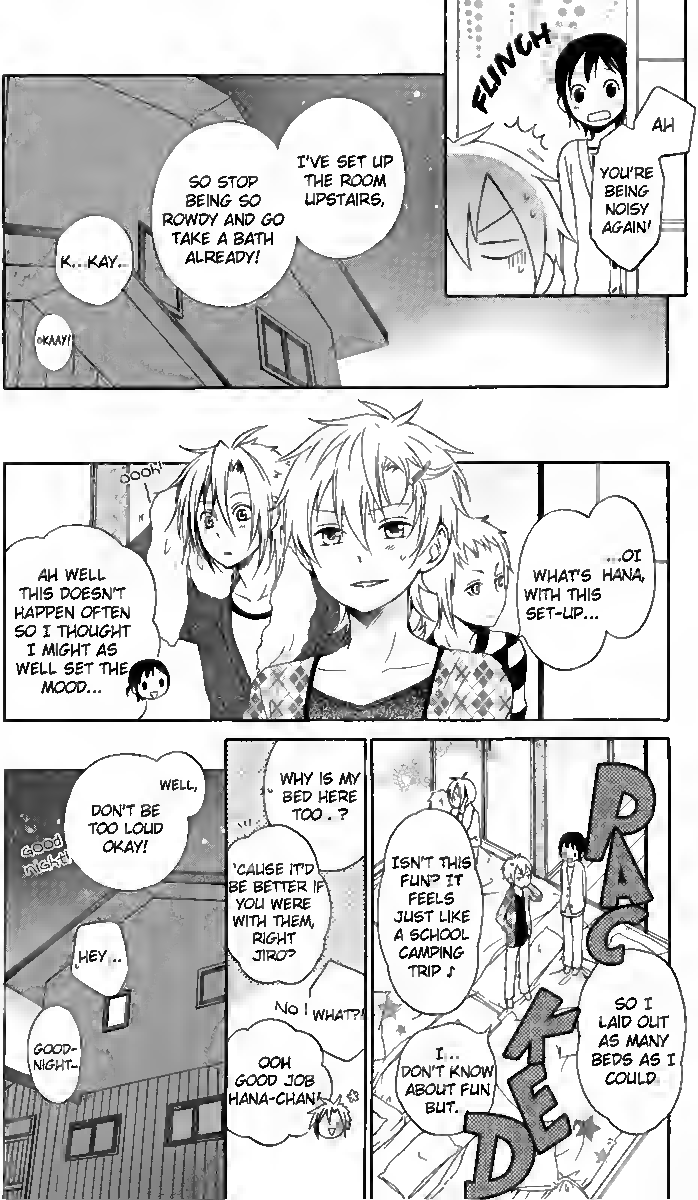

SO
AYATO-KUN
TO TROUBLE ME BY DISAPPEARING COMPLETELY
NO MATTER HOW HARD I TRY
IF YOU DO THAT EVEN I CAN'T FIND YOU
JUST LIKE BEFORE
HOW ..
YOU...
WENT OUT OF YOUR WAY
WHY COULD
HANA SEE HM
EVEN WHEN I COULDN'T?
I THOUGHT HE DID IT ON PURPOSE...
BUT
HIS REACTION...
YOU'RE WRONG.
WHY...

BOTHERING HIM...?
WHAT IS IT?
...
THERE'S SOMETHING BOTHERING ME!...
...IT'S JUST..
THAT'S NOT WHY I WANTED TO SPEND THE NIGHT.
WHY HAVE YOU CHANGED SO MUCH...
WHY?
GEEZ
YOU USED TO BE A MUCH MORE ENDEARING PERSON...
WHAT...
I'M NOT TELLING YOU!
Hmmph
A~YA~...
.....


KOUJIROU, WHY
WHY ARE YOU LEAVING
HEY
WHY DID YOU CHANGE?
...I DON'T WANT TO HEAR THAT FROM YOU.
HUH?
BAM
WHY ARE YOU ACTING LIKE THIS ANYWAY!
YOU...
YOU...
UM...
... YO-...
HIS BEST PREPARED INSULT!
YOU SHORTY PANTS!
SHI-..?!
Y-YOU'RE JUST TALL THAT'S ALL!
7cm
POINT
Shorty
Don't regret it!

step
step
HEY JIRO—
AH-
flinch
W-WELL WE WERE UM....
QUI—
ET—
LY—
WHAT'S WITH ALL THE RACKET? IT'S ALREADY PRETTY LATE, YOU KNOW?
NOW
sh
tap
...K
KAY...

...WHAT?
STA
NOT-HING
Geez even you are
RE
pit
Pat
...
ALRIGHT, WELL I'LL GO SET-UP THE SECOND FLOOR
OKAY. O...
WELL..I GUESS...
AND THEN DO YOU THE TWO OF YOU SIT AT THE KOTATSU LIKE THIS?
HAH?
SO JIRO...
DO YOU ALWAYS GET TO SEE HANA-CHAN FRESH OUT OF THE SHOWER?
WO-AH
rustle
SCAN-DAL-OUS...
fechee
EVEN A GENTLEMAN WOULD GIVE IN TO THEIR INSTINCTS; BOYS WILL BE BOYS
THAT'S RIGHT!
I DIDN'T mean it LIKE THAT!
guiltily
guiltily
oops
TOGETHER . I'D SEE HER LIKE THAT EVEN IF I DIDN'T WANT TO!
WH-
IT'S NOT LIKE I CAN HELP IT WE LIVE...
SCAN-DAL-OUS
rustle
right?


PUNCH
AH
YOU'RE BEING NOISY AGAIN!
I'VE SET UP THE ROOM UPSTAIRS,
SO STOP BEING SO ROWDY AND GO TAKE A BATH ALREADY!
K...KAY..
*KAAY!
...OI
WHAT'S HANA, WITH THIS SET-UP...
OOOH!
AH WELL THIS DOESN'T HAPPEN OFTEN SO I THOUGHT I MIGHT AS WELL SET THE MOOD...
PACKED
SO I LAID OUT AS MANY BEDS AS I COULD
ISN'T THIS FUN? IT FEELS JUST LIKE A SCHOOL CAMPING TRIP ♪
I... DON'T KNOW ABOUT FUN BUT.
WHY IS MY BED HERE TOO.?
'CAUSE IT'D BE BETTER IF YOU WERE WITH THEM, RIGHT JIRO?
No! WHAT?
OOH GOOD JOB HANA-CHAN!
WELL,
DON'T BE TOO LOUD OKAY!
GOOD night
HEY..
GOOD-NIGHT-

...
TICK
TICK
close...
...
...A SECRET ...?
SECRET
step
step
...AYA?
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
AH, HE'S PROBABLY GOING TO THE TOILET OR SOMETHING.
WHAT IS HE, A GIRL...?

...WHO KNOWS?
I DON'T REALLY GET HIM ANY-MORE...
COULD HE HAVE BEEN SE-RIOUS...
BUT... ISN'T THAT PRETTY BAD THEN?
HUH...
AYA-CHAN SAID HE WAS GOING TO BATHE WITH HANA-CHAN RIGHT?
BEFORE...
HIM JUST TRYING TO JOKE AROUND.. RIGHT?
THAT WAS LIKE...
...HE SURE IS TAKING HIS SWEET TIME...
HEY HEY HEY JIRO
A BULL OVER...
ha ha ha
.. L-LIKE THAT'D HAPPEN...
I-I KNOW RIGHT~ THAT DEFINITELY CAN'T BE IT~~~.. .
...
IT'S TRUE THAT AYA KNOWS HANA IS MY "TARGET"
AND IS PROBA-BLY TRYING TO GET CLOSE TO HER..
Um..
THIS IS ALL HYPOTHETICAL BUT IF AYA-CHAN WERE TO SAY
WELL, WHAT IS?
"I'M GOING TO SLEEP WITH HA-NA-CHAN~~"
WHAT WOULD YOU DO?
AND SNUCK INTO HER ROOM...

...
I WON'T LET YOU DO IT FOR ME
IT'S UP TO ME ON HOW TO DEAL WITH IT
AND I WON'T LET YOU DO IT FOR ME.
BACK THEN I WARNED HIM...
...HANG ON...
IF AYA WERE TO THINK:
"IT'S HANA'S FAULT HE'S NOT GOING BACK"
OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT...
THAT IS THE REASON...
...WELL
WHY...
WAIT A SECOND...
...TODAY.
AYA HAS BEEN ACTING KINDA OF...
CAN I SLEEP HERE TONIGHT?
STRANGE...
THERE'S SOMETHING BOTHERING ME...
SLAM
EH!?
JIRO?!

BANG
HAS AYA DONE SOME-THING TO HER..
IS SHE ASLEEP...?
silence
HANA!
HAVE YOU SEEN AYA?
BANG
BANG
HEEY JIRO...
SHE WOULDN'T BE AFTER ALL THAT YELLING...
NO...
HANA?
HEY!
So cooold
Uahhh
shiver
shiver
YOU SCARED THE SHIT OUT OF M
WHAT'S WITH YOU, RUNNING OUT OF THE ROOM LIKE THAT...
HANA-CHAN'S GONNA WAKE UP YOU KNOW!
WHAT ARE YOU YELLING FOR?
AAAHH !!!?
WHAT?!?!
CWEEK
CWEEK

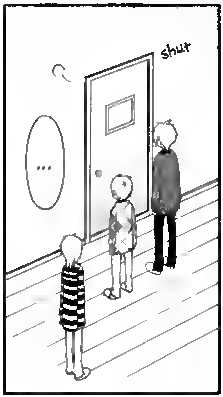
PULL
UWOA AGH
OW OW OW
WHAT'RE YOU DOING JIRO?
IF YOU DISTURB MY SLEEP,
I'LL MAKE YOU HAVE WEIRD DREAMS LATER!
FLOAT
GRAB
WHAT?
SHE'S NOT RESPOND-ING!!
TAKE A LOOK AT HANA'S ROOM RIGHT NOW!!
GII!
H-HANG ON JIRO!!
SQUEEZE
OWWWW
WHY DO I
'CAUSE HANA IS MY...
WHAT?
JOLT
'CA
'CAUSE
CALM DOWN! THAT STUFF I SAID BEFORE WAS A JOKE, IT'S FINE...
NO IT'S NOT!

...HA...
!!?

A BOY AFTER ALL.
PEEK
KOUJIROU IS STILL
OUT-SIDE MY ROOM?
WH..T'RE YOU TWO DOING
A...AH.. WELL WE...
BE CARE-FUL~~~

WHY'RE YOU HERE...
HANA?!
HANA-CHAN, DIDN'T YOU GO TO BED?
UH...I WAS THINKING OF HAVING SOME TEA BEFORE SLEEPING...
...MORE IMPOR-TANTLY,
DOWN-STAIRS

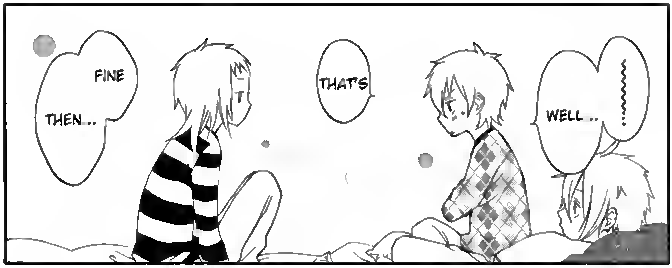
...A?!
!!!?


shut
...

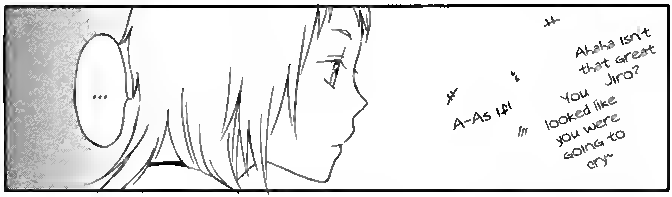
Meek.
WELL GOOD NIGHT FOR REAL THIS TIME
K... KAY...

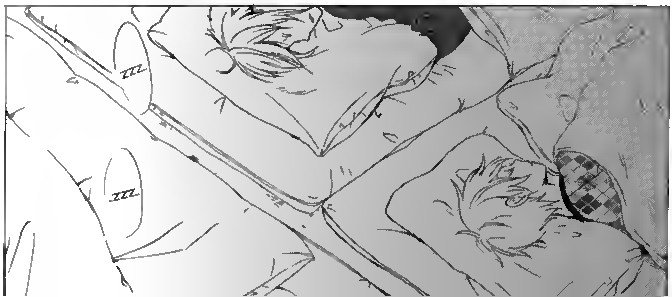
WHAAT? WHY...
AYA?!!
WE DRANK TEA TOGETHER RIGHT?
YEAH

I MET HER IN THE HALLWAY ON THE WAY BACK FROM THE TOILET AND WAS ASKED "WANT SOME TEA?"
SUCH A PAIN, I SAID I DIDN'T.
AYA ..
YOU REALLY DIDN'T DO ANYTHING RIGHT?

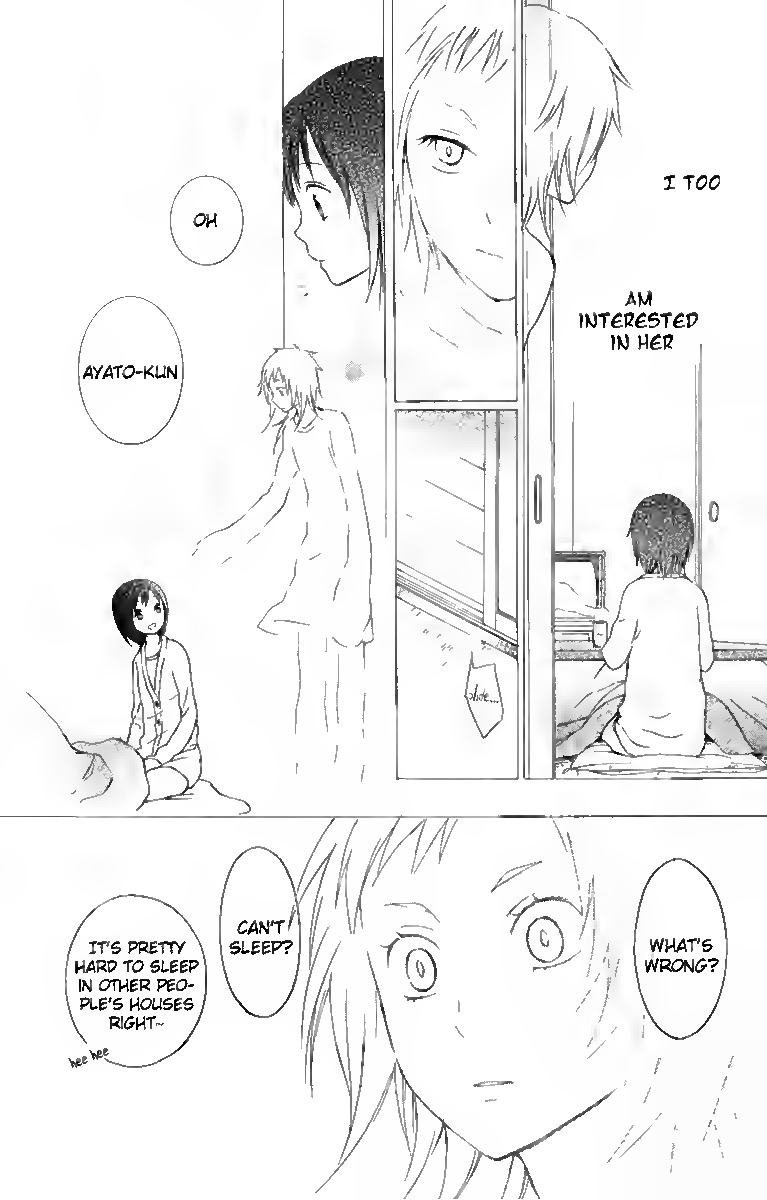

FINE
THEN...
THAT'S
WELL...

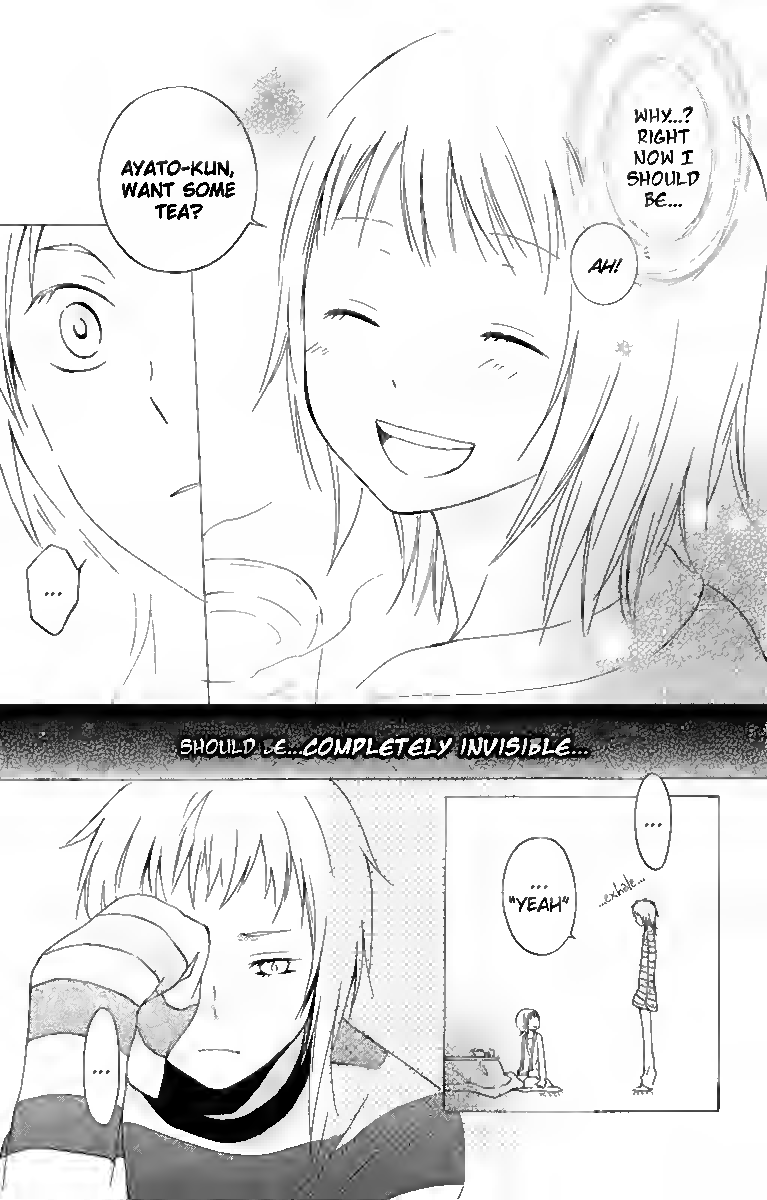
SO SHE SEEMS FINE FOR NOW...
goodnight!
HANA WASN'T ACTING PARTICULARLY STRANGE...
SIGH


...
A-As if!
Ahaha isn't that great Jiro?
You looked like you were going to cry...


zzz
zzz

THERE'S SOMETHING STRANGE ABOUT HER AFTER ALL..
tap
tip
...
zzz
sit up
zz
...SORRY, KOUJIROU.
INVALE
I DON'T THINK I CAN KEEP THAT PROMISE RIGHT NOW
BECAUSE
tip
tap
...AAH,
SO SHE WASN'T IN HER ROOM..
I can hear the tv


I TOO
AM INTERESTED IN HER
OH
AYATO-KUN
shhh...
WHAT'S WRONG?
CAN'T SLEEP?
IT'S PRETTY HARD TO SLEEP IN OTHER PEOPLE'S HOUSES RIGHT~
hee hee


AYATO-KUN, WANT SOME TEA?
...
WHY...? RIGHT NOW I SHOULD BE...
AH!
...SHOULD BE...COMPLETELY INVISIBLE...
...
...
"YEAH"
...while...

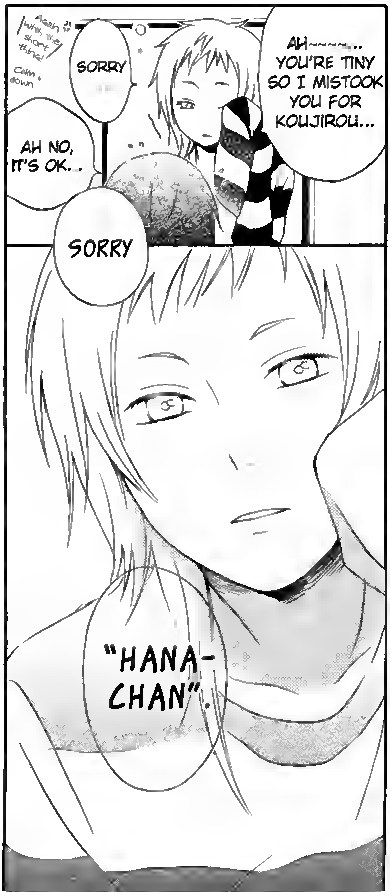
BUT
THEN SHE PROBABLY ISN'T NORMAL...
IF SHE'S KOUJIROU'S TARGET
JUST WHAT IS SHE
blow
blow
TH... ANKS
HERE YOU GO!
AH...
I WAS JUST WONDERING IF IT WAS TOO HOT...
AH SORRY!
ER...NO... IT'S OK...I CAN DRINK IT...
W-WHAT ARE YOU LOOK-ING AT?

KOUJIR-OU. .
HE WHO IS NO LONGER ABLE TO SEE ME,
REALLY?
I'M GLAD.
...AND SHE WHO... SEEKS ME,
"HANA-CHAN"

WOBBLE
WOBBLE
AH!
MM~~~~~~
step
step
MORN-ING!
DID YOU SLEEP WELL LAST NIGHT?
AYATO-KUN
SORRY, THERE ARE DRAFTS. 'CAUSE THIS HOUSE IS RUN-DOWN.
IT'S A PRETTY COLD HOUSE RIGHT?
NNMM~~
SQUEEZE

step...
step...
AHH~~
THAT HURT...
I SAID I WAS SORRY~
PEOPLE WITH MASSIVE BODIES LIKE YOURS SHOULDN'T GO LYING ON OTHERS...
THUD
ouch!
I WAS ASLEEP SO I COULDN'T HELP IT~
SIGH
I WONDER ABOUT TH-...
Back Off
Oppressive

!!!?


Again, it's a story of the past
Calm down
SORRY
AH~~~~... YOU'RE TINY SO I MISTOOK YOU FOR KOUJIROU...
AH NO, IT'S OK..
SORRY
"HANA-CHAN"..

This early in the morning
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU TWO DOOOING
A-AH WELL.. AYATO-KUN JUST..
HUH... ...MM~? THERE'S A KOUJIROU OVER THERE TOO...
OHH.. AYA-CHAN IS STILL HALF ASLEEP...
MM~~~?

...!
...I-
IT'S OKAY...
—GEEZ...
HE SHOULD REALLY DO SOMETHING ABOUT HIS HABIT OF STICKING TO PEOPLE LIKE THAT...
YOUR FACE IS KINDA RED...
...ARE YOU OK?
HUH?!
really?
...
F-
FINE, I'M FINE.
wave
wave
wave
...
OHH?
I GUESS EVEN YOU CAN ACT PRETTY GIRLY THEN...
Hey
COME ON~
JUST WHAT DO YOU THINK I AM...

'CAUSE
..HEY
MM?
SO WHAT
AM I TO YOU ANYWAY?
HUH?
YOU KNOW~ LAST NIGHT...
THAT THING YOU SAID IN FRONT OF MY ROOM...
'CAUSE
THE THING FROM LAST NIGHT...
..
—'CAUSE
HANA IS MY...——
!!
OH THAT
JUST RE-MEM-BERED
BLUSH

HANA IS MY "TARGET"—
IF I HAD SAID THAT, THINGS WOULD HAVE BECOME A PAIN...!
THAT SORT OF MAKES ME MORE CURIOUS~~~ ...
YOU DO REMEMBER DON'T YOU?
D- DO NOT!
Right Right
...
PWip?
AH.. NO....
I-I DON'T REALLY REMEMBER.
WHAAT?
FORGET ABOUT THE PAST!
...THAT TOTALLY COUNTS AS FLIRTING RIGHT?
AHA IT GENERALLY DOES~
But those two are pretty dirty
...
I'VE ONLY EVER HAD EYES FOR KOUJIROU...
...BUT
I'M NOT SO SURE ANYMORE

"HANA-CHAN"
ALL I CAN SEE...IS HER
RIGHT NOW
AYATO-KUN

...I'VE DECIDED

AYA TOO O!
HUH!?
BANG
Breakfast
I LIVE HERE?
...CAN

紅王子

Raw Provider
rawlst
Translator
thorro
Proofreader
litoxpinky
Cleaner
litoxpinky
Typesetter
litoxpinky
QCer
litoxpinky

THERE'S NOTHING LIKE DRINKING COCOA ON A WEEKEND MORNING.
AH—
LAID BACK
ROBIN, AREN'T YOU PICKING ME UP A BIT TOO EARLY TODAY—
I CAME TO GET YOU AS FAST AS I COULD!!
A GUEST URGENTLY WANTS TO SEE YOU FIRST THING THIS MORNING! THAT'S WHY...
AND
PLEASE DON'T SNEAKILY ADD PICKING YOU UP AS ONE OF MY RESPONSIBILITIES!
I know my schedule doesn't work properly before noon
A GUEST?
THUD
MENACE
ISN'T TODAY A WEEKDAY?
I finally found you!
pant
pant
HMM?
How careless of me.

CHAPTER 23 THE DOORBELL IS RINGING

...AH... I'M SO TIRED...
LIMP...
IT FEELS AS IF A LOT OF STRANGE THINGS HAVE HAPPENED OVER THESE PAST FEW DAYS.
TRYING TO PERSUADE AYATO USED UP ALL OF MY ENERGY.
POUT!
But Kou-kun lives here
Why?
IT FEELS AS IF MY BRAIN WON'T WORK ANYMORE...
Hm Hm
ANYWAY JUST GO HOME!
I BEG OF YOU, PLEASE DON'T COME ANYMORE...
STEP
STEP
STEP
WAIT, JIROOOO!

...HANA?
glance
Cover up the telltale verse
SORRY, I ACCIDENTALLY TOLD THEM...

THUMP
I HEARD HE STAYED OVER TOO.. ONE GIRL WITH THREE BOYS IN THE HOUSE IS A LITTLE..
I wonder what's on [illegible]
EH!?
DID THAT CHILDHOOD FRIEND OF YOURS BARGE IN AGAIN?

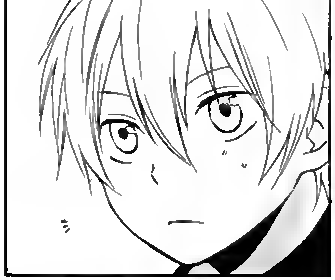
WHY DO YOU TWO KNOW ABOUT THAT...
WAIT..
LATER ON, I HAVE TO TELL ISSA-KUN OFF TOO...

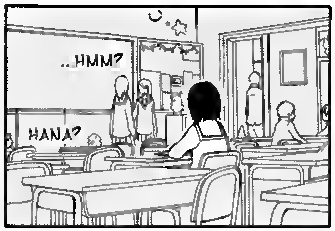
WHAT ARE YOU CAUGHT UP IN?
Ugh..
HEY JIRO!
RUSH
DOOM
He's here
Ah, speak of the devil

AH, THIS?
...MORE LIKE WHAT ARE YOU CAUGHT UP IN..?

I'M SURE YOU KNOW, BUT HANA IS MORE THAN JUST PURE, SHE'S AN AIRHEAD, AN AIR-HEAD AND OBLIVI-OUS.
HEY, KEEP YOURSELF TOGETHER JIRO-KUN.
WHISPER
WHISPER
WHISPER
SHE IS OBVIOUSLY A DANGEROUS ONE!
YEAH.. I KNOW.. I KNOW..
?

PLOP
!
HEY —!
MERRY CHRISTMAS MERRY CHRISTMAS!
AND SO, THIS IS MY CHRISTMAS PRESENT FOR YOU FREE PEOPLE~
Here you go
HUH?
"I'LL GIVE YOU THESE DECORATIONS SINCE I HAVE EXTRA" AND SO I GOT DECORATED TOO
I SAW SOME PEOPLE DECORATING THE TREE IN THE COURTYARD,
SO, WHAT FESTIVAL IS THIS?
Just what is this?
SPEAKING OF WHICH RECENTLY, THE CLASSROOM SEEMS RATHER MESSY
HUH!?
WHAT? DON'T TELL ME YOU DON'T KNOW?
"CHRISTMAS"?
AH... THAT'S RIGHT, THERE WAS SOME SORT OF HUMAN WORLD EVENT CALLED THAT
WAIT YOSHINO~
Hmm?
Here's tea please, Ok this
EXACTLY HOW MANY DECORATIONS ARE NEEDED THIS YEAR?
ERM— THE THING IS...
Ask every one in class to help
Not that I mind though
sewing
sewing



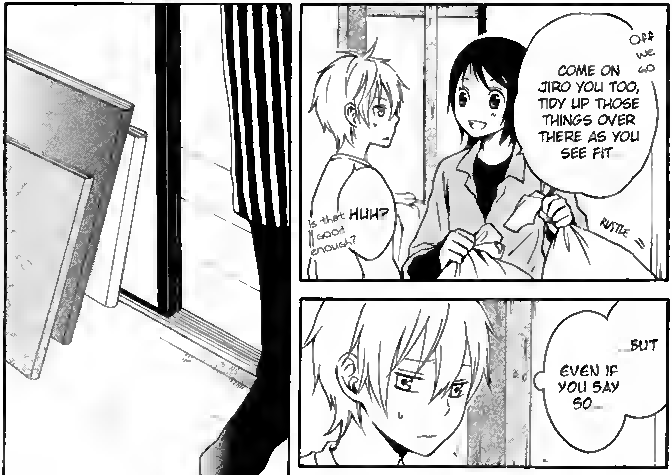

..HMM?
HANA?

IS SHE NOT HANGING OUT WITH US TODAY?
WHAT IS IT?

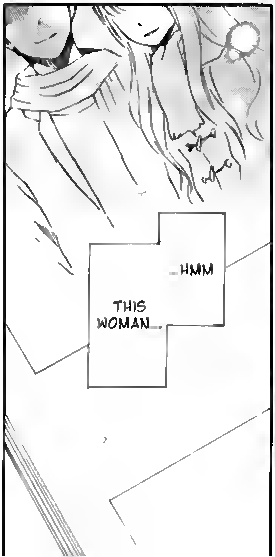
Sorry
SOME FOR YUUTA'S (YOUNGER BROTHER) BASEBALL TEAM'S PARTY...
THIS YEAR AS USUAL THERE'S THE OLD FOLK'S HOME'S SHARE AND THE NURSERY'S SHARE
What sort of big brother gets used like that?
HUH!?
CAN'T YOU DO THAT YOURSELF?!
IT'S BECAUSE THEY TOLD ME THAT IF I DID THIS, THEY'D TAKE MY PLACE AS THE "SHOPPING DISTRICT'S SANTA" THIS YEAR
I DON'T REALLY UNDERSTAND BUT AS USUAL, THEY SEEM TO BE HAVING FUN.
Welcome
Santa that stands at the entrance to the Shopping District
Please give me sweets

EH...
OH WELL...
...?
USUALLY SHE STICKS CLOSE TO IZUMI AND THE OTHERS.

RUSTLE
RUSTLE
PLOP
RUSTLE
THIS IS AMAZING...
MESSY
POWER
THIS PROBAB-LY
HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH "CHRISTMAS" RIGHT?
RUSTLE


OH! WE GO
COME ON JIRO YOU TOO, TIDY UP THOSE THINGS OVER THERE AS YOU SEE FIT
RUSTLE
Is that HUH? good enough?
...BUT
EVEN IF YOU SAY SO...

HMM?
WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING AT?
AH... NO.
drip
THIS.
AH
IT'S AN ALBUM~
drip
drip


...HMM
THIS WOMAN...

WA~H HOW NOSTALGIC~ EVERYONE'S SO SMALL
AH THIS IS IZUMI-CHAN AND WAKA.
OH

IT FEELS LIKE I'VE SEEN HER BEFORE...
...?
HANA
COULD IT BE THAT THESE TWO ARE...
HMM?
YOUR PARENTS?
AH...
// surprised
HMM?

!
BEAN
SO THIS PHOTO
WAS HERE ALL ALONG
IT'S NO WONDER I COULDN'T FIND IT.

YOU AND THIS WOMAN.
.....
OH?

YOU'RE PRETTY SHARP, THOSE ARE MY PARENTS.
NO... IT'S JUST,
I THOUGHT YOU LOOKED LIKE HER.

IS IT MY IMAGINA-TION OR...
IT FEELS AS THOUGH HANA IS ACTING A LITTLE...
HMM?
THERE'S NOTHING AFTER THIS?
AH... YEAH.
...THAT DAY...?
WE SORT OF STOPPED TAKING AS MANY PHOTOS AFTER THAT DAY...
STEP
STEP
STEP
STEP
HEY YOU TWO, STOP SLACKING OFF OVER THERE!!
BAM
Y-YES!
SHOCK
UWAH
Sorry
ALSO JIRO,
THE KIDS ARE CALLING FOR YOU AT THE EN-TRANCE.
...EH? ME?

SALUTE
Yo, Jiro.
Merry Christmas Eve Eve!!
※ 23rd
Hey
Good afternoon

GET A CLUE~
Really
OI OI~ AT THIS POINT IN TIME, IF THERE'S A MISSION, IT HAS TO BE THAT RIGHT?
IT'S ALWAYS LIKE THIS
AREN'T YOU GUYS GOING TO TELL ME WHAT YOU WANT ME TO DO?

WHAT ARE YOU YAPPING ON ABOUT!?
AND SO, WE ACTUALLY CAME HERE TODAY BECAUSE WE HAVE TO LEAVE A VERY IMPORTANT MISSION TO YOU.
Be grateful and take it!
CLENCH
BAM

Fiyu
SEE YA!
!?
ALRIGHT, HERE!
MP!

UNFOLD
WHAT IS THIS?
CAN'T YOU TELL?
IT'S A SANTA OUTFIT.
SAN..?
EVERY YEAR, THE OLD MEN FROM THE NEIGHBOURHOOD ASSOCIATION WEAR THIS AND IT ALWAYS TURNS OUT PRETTY TERRIBLE!
A KID SANTA WOULD BE SO MUCH MORE POPULAR RIGHT--
They always smell of alcohol and eat squid
IN. OTHER. WORDS.
SO?
You're so slow
Really
WHY DO I HAVE TO DO THIS?
BECAUSE THEY SAID THAT WE CAN'T DO IT IF WE'RE NOT AT LEAST MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS
You kids are too young to do this
AND THE OTHER GUYS RAN OFF SAYING THEY HAVE "OTHER PLANS".
WE THOUGHT YOU'D DEFINITELY BE FREE DURING CHRISTMAS
BUT,
YOU GUYS DON'T GO DECIDING THINGS ON YOUR OWN
SO, YOU ARE FREE RIGHT?
From Yoshuno
To the kids
To Atsui
WE'RE GIVING YOU THE IMPORTANT ROLE OF BEING THIS YEAR'S "SHOPPING DISTRICT SANTA.
...HUH?
Shopping district
Welcome
PEEKOO

HANA-NEE'S FAMILY NEVER CELEBRATES CHRISTMAS.
RIGHT?
I IS THAT WHY TODAY..
SHE COULDN'T JOIN IN ON THE CONVERSATION?
I'D IMAGINE THAT SHE'S INTO THESE SORTS OF THINGS...
Memories of the cultural festival
THAT'S WHY,
hmph
ACK
AH
HEY!!
THANKS, "SANTA"!
STEP
DYB
MERRY CHRIST-MAS!!
EVE EVE
SORRY FOR DIS-TURBING!
I REALLY WANTED TO INVITE HANA-NEE OVER TO THE PARTY.
SIGH
boo
boo
GRANNY IS PROBABLY AGAINST IT RIGHT?
LAAAME
...AH
CAN'T HANA-NEE JUST SNEAK OUT?
Akuhu no way

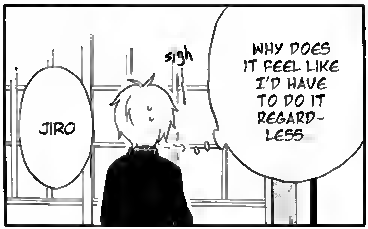
...CHILDREN ARE SUCH SELF-CENTERED BEINGS...
sigh
They didn't listen to a word I said.
WHAT'RE YOU SAYING, THOSE GUYS DID A PRETTY GOOD JOB.
HAVEN'T YOU HEARD THE SAYING: "CHILDREN ARE DEMONS WITH AN INNOCENT FACE".
PEEK
PFFL
twoo
STEP
STEP
STEP
Demon (the real deal) that gets pushed around by children
thud
thud
...NO...
BUT,
SOON,
SOMEONE MIGHT COME TO "SEE" YOU.
YOU'RE ALWAYS PUTTING THINGS OFF.
YOU... KNOW?
thud
thud
WHAT?
ARE YOU TRYING TO SAY THAT THOSE KIDS ARE BETTER AT BEING "DEMONS" THAN I AM?

AHAHA, SO YOU'VE BEEN APPOINTED AS THE "SHOPPING DISTRICT SANTA".
THEY SURE RELY ON YOU~
AND? ARE YOU REALLY GOING TO DO THIS?
AS IF!!
What is a Santa anyway?
Aha
THAT'S RIGHT, IT'S OKAY
I'LL CONTACT SHOU-CHAN LATER.
Phew
.....
IT'S FINALLY CHRISTMAS EVE TOMORROW!
HOW IS EVERYONE GOING TO SPEND...
HEY JIRO,
YEAH?
11
12
JIRO ARE...
UMM...

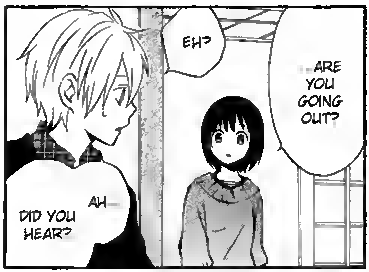
ON CHRISTMAS DAY..
ARE YOU GOING ANY-WHERE?
CHRIST-MAS?
NO, NOT REALLY...
COME TO THINK OF IT, I DON'T EVEN UNDER-STAND WHAT "CHRISTMAS" IS IN THE FIRST PLACE...
R-REALLY? THEN... THEN.
YOU'LL BE AT HOME THAT DAY RIGHT?
EH...
GRAB
RIGHT?
YE-YEAH...
THAT'S... GOOD THEN.
Phew
I SEE

Christmas Day
HUH!?
YOU CAUGHT A COLD?
...WHAT?
LET'S HURRY AND TIDY UP THE REST!
YE-
YEAH...

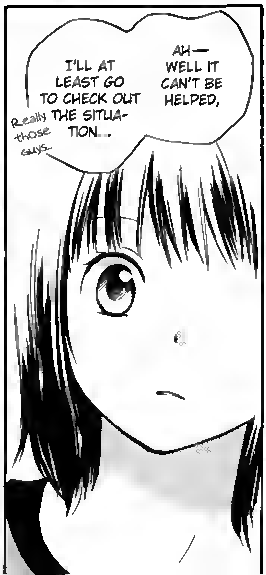
BEEP
BEEP
BEEP
COUGH
YUUTA AND HIS FRIENDS WILL MEET YOU LATER SO PLEASE...
YO-YOSHINO!
Hey!
HANGS UP
COUGH
COUGH
IT SURE SUCKS TO BE ME...
YEAH... REALLY... TO BE STUCK IN BED WITH A FEVER ON A DAY LIKE THIS...
COUGH
SO I'M REALLY DEPENDING ON YOU TO BE SANTA...
WAIT...
I-
ERM... ABOUT THAT...


sigh
WHY DOES IT FEEL LIKE I'D HAVE TO DO IT REGARDLESS
JIRO

THERE SHOULDN'T BE ANY SPECIAL REASON FOR ME TO REPLACE HIM...
I THINK... RIGHT?
hangs up


ARE YOU GOING OUT?
EH?
AH...
DID YOU HEAR?

JIRO, YOU CAN'T.
HUH?


AH— WELL IT CAN'T BE HELPED,
I'LL AT LEAST GO TO CHECK OUT THE SITUATION...
Really those guys...

YOU
MADE A "PROMISE" WITH ME RIGHT,
JIRO?

SQUEEZE
YOU TOLD ME
THAT TODAY,
YOU'D "BE AT HOME"

DON'T GO.
HANA?
IF.. YOU GO OUT NOW.
I'M SURE,
YOU WON'T COME BACK.

I'M JUST...
GOING TO YOSHINO'S PLACE FOR A LITTLE WHILE...
...HUH?
WHAT... WHAT'S THE MATTER?
I'LL COME BACK RIGHT AWAY...
NO
YOU CAN'T TODAY.
TODAY IS THE ONLY DAY YOU CAN'T.
I'M SURE... SOON,
THAT PERSON WILL COME.

ALL I KNOW
IS THAT THE PERSON STANDING IN FRONT OF ME RIGHT NOW,
IS HANA SAYING?
WHAT DOES SHE WANT TO SAY?
DIDN'T UNDER-STAND AT ALL.
AND ALSO
TAKE YOU AWAY.
WHAT
IS CLEARLY ACTING COMPLETELY DIFFERENT
...I'M SORRY.

MY FATHER'S AND MY MOTHER'S ACCIDENT,
IT'S ALL
MY FAULT, AND YET
THAT DAY,
"THAT PERSON" COMING...
THE TRUTH IS...
EVERY-THING IS MY FAULT.

.....EH
AND YET, "THAT PERSON"
WON'T TAKE ME WITH THEM.
JIRO
BA-DUMP
DON'T GO.

THOSE KIDS HAVE TERRIBLE TIMING...
WAIT...
WAIT A SECOND!
ding don
NOW IS A LITTLE...
RATTLE
ding dong
gasp
.....
BA-DUMP
HANA?
BA-DUMP
ding dong

WHO'S THIS?
...HELLO
...EH...

WE FINALLY... MEET.
!?
W-WHAT?
HE'S...
AH...
WHO ON EARTH...
YOUR TIME IS UP.
PRINCE

NOW...
COME WITH ME.
!?

紅王子
くれないおうじ

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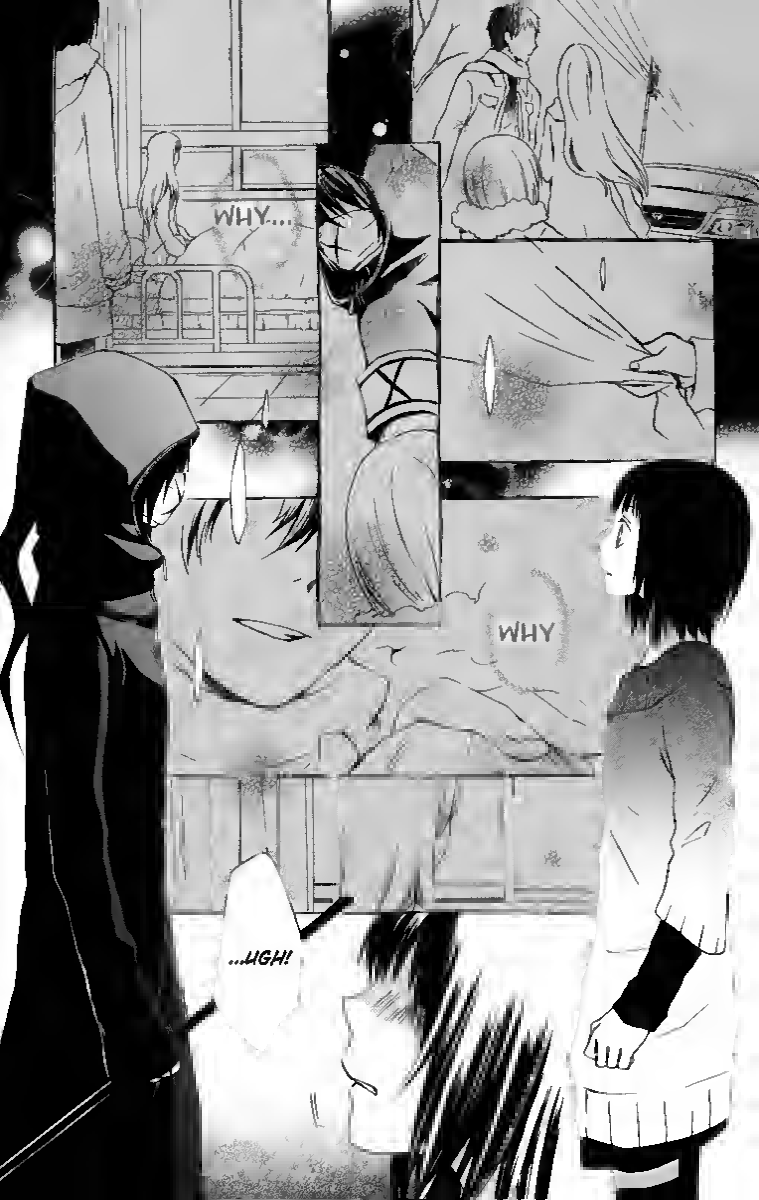
CHAPTER 24 AN IRREPLACEABLE PERSON

CALLED ME "PRINCE"...
HE EVEN
THIS GUY'S MANNER... IS NOT NORMAL.
IS HE... FROM THE DEMON WORLD...!
AH...
!
YOU...
HA...
HANA...
DAD...
MOM


WHY...
WHY
...UGH!

dash
STAY AWAY FROM HIM.
...HA... NA....
THAT'S DANGER-OUS.
.....

PLEASE DON'T GET TOO CLOSE TO ME.
OTHER-WISE,
I MIGHT TAKE AWAY YOUR SOUL.
...GOT IT?
fwish
!?
TAKE AWAY HER...
SOUL!?

WHAT IS THIS GUY SAYING—
...WHY. WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
I KEPT OUR "PROMISE".
I'VE KEPT IT THIS WHOLE TIME
WHY..
...HANA?
COULD IT BE
THAT PERSON WILL COME
THAT WHAT HANA SAID

SHOVE
!
YOU CAN'T DO THAT!
THIS HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH JIRO,
SO PLEASE LEAVE...
HANA!?
.....
I CAN'T DO THAT...
HEY.
Please
YOU'RE HERE TO TAKE JIRO TOO?
DON'T TELL ME
WAS REFERRING TO THIS GUY?

SLIDE
STOP
!
!!?
DON'T TOUCH ME.
...ST-
SLASH
JIRO...

TCH...
...YOU BASTARD,
THAT'S DANGER-OUS.

JIRO! ARE YOU OKAY...
AH, BLOOD...
ACK DON'T TOUCH ME!
I'M FINE, IT'S NOTHING COMPARED TO WHAT'S GOING ON NOW...
AAAAAH
GAAH
I'M SOO SOR-RYYYYY
!!?

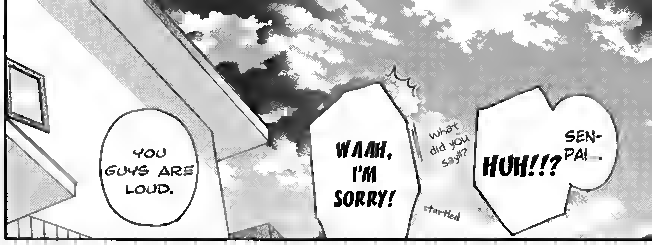
TREMBLE
I'M SORRY, I'M SO SORRY.
I DIDN'T MEAN TO DO THAT.
TREMBLE
HUH..?
I JUST WANTED TO SLASH THE AIR A LITTLE AND TOWARDS HER. I HAD NO ILL INTENTIONS WHATSOEVER.
TREMBLE
B-B-BUT I NEVER THOUGHT THAT YOU WOULD SUDDENLY RUN IN FRONT OF HER LIKE THAT.
IT SURPRISED ME SO I UN-INTENTIONALLY SWUNG DOWN, UM...!
TREMBLE
W-WAIT A MINUTE... YOU...
HOW DO I SAY IT, U-UM, SINCE I'M THE ONE WHO DID IT, TO SAYING THIS A LITTLE BIT... W-WELL...
HUH?
PLEASE... DON'T COME NEAR ME...
UM...
WHAT?
GAAH
SHAKE
SPEAK CLEARLY, WHAT'S WRONG?
WOBBLE
BLOOD
HUH?!
TSK,
THERE'S NO HELPING IT.

DEAL WITH THAT ONE FIRST.
AH...
PISSSH
SSHHH
SSHHH
MEIJI
!?
MM.
YESSIR.
KER
CHAK
BANG

EH?
.....
wobble
THUD
HA...
HANA!?
...WH-
...WHY
SORRY,
BUT WHAT'S ABOUT TO BE SAID DEFINITELY CAN'T BE HEARD BY "HUMANS"
SO LET HER SLEEP FOR A BIT.

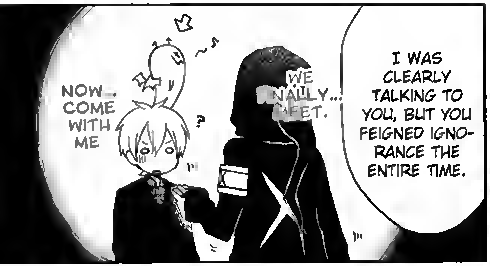
SHE'S... ASLEEP...?
EH...
MMN
ZZZ...
BUT...
IT'LL BE POINTLESS IF THE KEY PERSON DIES.
CHIK
DIDN'T I TEACH YOU NOT TO INCES-SANTLY RUN YOUR MOUTH IN FRONT OF HUMANS?
S-SORRY...
WHAT
YOU IDIOT!

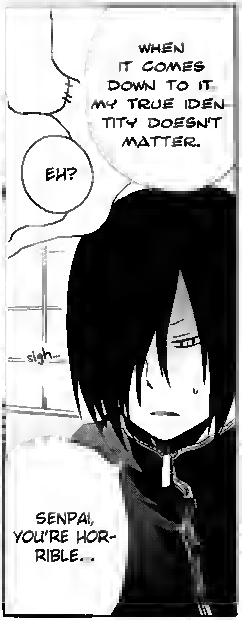
Ah, that's not, um, s-s-sorry
Heh, you've sure grown shine
I CAN'T FOLLOW THIS AT ALL.
.....
dejected
SITTING UP STRAIGHT
NO MATTER WHAT YOU DO, YOU ALWAYS MANAGE TO FIND A WAY TO FALL SHORT.
WERE YOU TRYING TO ACT COOL OR SOMETHING?
IF YOU'RE GONNA DO IT, AT LEAST SEE THE ACT THROUGH.
SORRY...
TODAY I DON'T KNOW WHY, BUT I HAD A FEELING THAT I COULD DO IT...
JUST WHO IS THIS GUY EVEN..
SO?
WHY'D YOU COME HERE? IT CAN'T BE BECAUSE YOU'RE TOO LAZY AND YOU DIDN'T WANT TO WORK.
...SHINIGAMI -SAN?
That-
THAT'S WHAT I'VE BEEN SAYING THIS WHOLE TIME!
TODAY I CAME TO GET YOU!
SHINI...?
GII-SENPAI


YOU GUYS ARE LOUD.
WAAH, I'M SORRY!
what did you say?
HUH!!?
SEN-PAI...
startled

SO BASI-CALLY,
BOTH OF YOU...
Senpai
YUP
ARE "SHINI-GAMI"...
WHO USED TO WORK TOGETHER IN THE SAME GROUP AS SENPAI AND KOUHAI...?
T-THAT'S RIGHT
Kouhai

...WAIT,
YOU USED TO BE A SHINIGAMI?
I'm still not clear who you really are.
ke he
YOU COULD SAY THAT...
...HOW-EVER,


NOW... COME WITH ME
WE FINALLY... MEET.
I WAS CLEARLY TALKING TO YOU, BUT YOU FEIGNED IGNORANCE THE ENTIRE TIME.


WHEN IT COMES DOWN TO IT MY TRUE IDENTITY DOESN'T MATTER.
EH?
—sigh—
SENPAI, YOU'RE HORRIBLE...

IT'S THE TRUTH.
I DON'T WANT YOU OF ALL PEOPLE TO TELL ME THAT!
SUEEEEZE
Here
Here
S O B
DOESN'T THAT JUST MAKE ME SEEM SUSPICIOUS?

Oh
DID WE WAKE HER..!?
Z.Z.Z.
THAT'S GOOD...
Ahh..
IS THAT SO—
Phew
N-NO . IT SHOULD BE FINE, THIS IS WHAT HANA'S LIKE WHEN SHE'S COMPLETELY ASLEEP.

Cards
UGH...
realise
!
SURPRISE

TREMBLE
TREMBLE
TREMBLE
I-IF THIS GIRL CAN'T WAKE UP...
EH?
BECAUSE I'VE MADE A MIS-TAKE...
AND I ACCIDENT-ALLY END UP TAKING AWAY HER PRECIOUS MEMORIES... W-WH, IT SHOULD I D.....
SWEAT
...NO
...IT MIGHT NOT BE...
WHAT?
HOW COULD I BEAR SUCH A BURDEE-EEEEEN.
I'm SOOO

COME TO THINK OF IT...
THAT PERSON WILL COME
PLEASE LEAVE
...I
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE!?
.....
I KEPT OUR "PROMISE".
...HEY... ...YOU,
EH, WHAT?
HAVE YOU... MET HANA BEFORE?
WHAT IS THIS "PROMISE"
THE ONLY TIME A HUMAN AND A SHINIGAMI CAN MEET
IS THE EXACT MOMENT OF SOMEONE'S "DEATH".
WHICH MEANS

DAD AND MOM HAD AN ACCI-DENT...—
HANA MUST HAVE AT THAT TIME...
!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE,
LEAVE.
TO BE HONEST...
I DON'T RECALL HAVING DONE SO
!?
THE LIST OF DEATHS THAT I'VE BEEN ASSIGNED TO...
DOESN'T HAVE ANY-ONE FROM THIS FAMILY EITHER...
B-BUT THEN... WHAT WAS THAT...
...HOW-EVER,
THIS GIRL
SEEMS TO HAVE MET ME BEFORE.
...ALSO,

IT SEEMS TO BE QUITE A CLEAR MEMORY.
DOES THIS NOT HAVE TO DO WITH.. HER PARENTS' ACCIDENT THEN?
THEN,
IT'S ALL MY FAULT AND YET... AND YET, "THAT PERSON" WON'T TAKE ME WITH THEM.
WHAT DID THAT SENTENCE ACTUALLY MEAN...
.....
.....
S-SORRY,
IT'S BECAUSE I CAN'T REMEMBER.....
IF WE CAN BORROW THE MIRROR OF THE UNDERWORLD, PERHAPS WE COULD FIGURE IT OUT...
...EH?
MEIJI

I'M S-S-S-S-S-SORRY, ACTUALLY I'M GOING TO ASK YOU TO FORGET WHAT I JUST SAID AND WHY DON'T YOU FORGET ABOUT ME TOOOO
Sorry
Sorry
Sorry
OKAY, OKAY, I GOT IT.
Don't suppose I can be a corpse in there!
DIDN'T I TELL YOU NOT TO INCESSANTLY RUN YOUR MOUTH-
DON'T MAKE ME REPEAT MYSELF.
AH
S-S-SORRY!! I REALLY DIDN'T MEAN TO...!
PUSH
ABOUT THAT MIRROR
EH!?
WAIT... IGNORE HIM, WHAT WERE YOU SAYING
UM
AH
UGH
SERIOUSLY,
UNZIP
IT'S BECAUSE YOU'RE LIKE THIS THAT NO MATTER HOW MUCH TIME PASSES, YOU'RE TREATED LIKE A PART-TIMER...
PART-TIMER?
It's so pitiful

THIS GUY'S PERFORMANCE HAS BEEN REALLY BAD SINCE THE VERY BEGINNING
WHEN HE WENT TO A PERSON ON THE BRINK OF DEATH TO GIVE HIM THE ANNOUNCEMENT THAT HE WAS GOING TO HELL.
It was really difficult for me back then.
You won't do, you're too young to commit suicide and have such a long future ahead of you!!
SHAKE
SHAKE
W-WHAT?
OUT OF SYMPATHY, HE TRIED TO GET HIM TO STOP COMMITTING SUICIDE.
By the way he lived until 98 years of age.
ON THE WAY TO THE NEXT INCIDENT,
HE HAD BECOME ANEMIC BECAUSE HE SAW THAT KID FELL AND GOT A NOSEBLEED.
TREMBLE
TREMBLE
HUHH?
He went for?
A-ahh A-are you okay why are you bleeding!!!?
...SO
TODAY I WAS JUST FOLLOWING ENMA-SAMA'S ORDERS...
sniffle
Shuffle
THAT'S ENOUGH.
Cut it out
SO OTHER SHINIGAMS MAKE HIM CARRY THEIR LUGGAGE OR DO OTHER TASKS FOR THEM.
ALSO ...
BECAUSE HIS EFFORTS NEVER BEAR ANY FRUIT, HE DOESN'T USUALLY GET ANY WORK COMING HIS WAY.
sob.. sob...

THAT PRINCE ISN'T THE KIND OF PERSON YOU CAN JUST NEGOTIATE WITH.
HE'S GOT A CUTE APPEARANCE BUT A HARSH PERSONALITY.
EH!?
really?
EN...
I THOUGHT SO.
HE SURE PLAYED YOU FOR A FOOL.
WHAT!?
SMILE
EH ..
BUT...
AH, DON'T WORRY, DON'T WORRY
THE BEST WAY WOULD BE TO FORCIBLY TAKE HIM
THAT'S RIGHT
THE SHINIGAMI ARE ALSO CONNECTED TO ENMA ..
SO THAT MEANS
HA—H
You were completely fooled
REALLY, WHENEVER I'M GONE, YOUR USELESSNESS PEAKS.
SO...
UGH...
" THAT'S EXACTLY RIGHT...
UH... ALL RIGHT.. THANK YOU SO MUCH....
JUST FOLLOW THESE INSTRUCTIONS ♥
I'LL WRITE THE SCRIPT
DEJECTED
crushing
crushing
crushing
crushing
I tried SOOOOOO hard TOO
IS
WHAT HE SAID SO...

PLEASE COME BACK,
SENPAI.
...HUH?
NO WAY.
THIS GUY WANTS TO TAKE GI BACK
THAT'S RIGHT
WITH JIRO,
THE WORK'S EASIER, AND I GET TO SEE ALL SORTS OF INTERESTING THINGS WITHOUT DOING ANY-THING.
...PRINCE,
THAT'S WHY!?

PRINCE, DO YOU REALLY NEED HIM?
YOU AND I ARE DIFFERENT, I'VE HEARD THAT YOU ARE AN AMAZING AND TALENTED INDIVIDUAL
IS IT NECES-SARY FOR HIM TO STAY WITH YOU...?

IF THINGS CONTINUE LIKE THIS, I DEFINITELY WON'T BE ABLE TO STAY IN THE UNDERWORLD.
WITH THE WAY I AM... I CAN'T ACCOMPLISH ANYTHING WITHOUT HIM.
I... CAN'T DO ANYTHING WITHOUT SENPAI ..
PLEASE RETURN SENPAI TO ME.
I BEG YOU,
...I'M AFRAID
WHEN SENPAI ISN'T WITH ME.
EVEN IF THAT'S THE CASE,
AND I WON'T BE OFFENDED IF YOU LOOK DOWN ON ME OR THINK I'M USELESS.
YOU CAN THINK THAT I'M ACTING TOO SPOILED
MEI...

I REALLY WANT GII-SENPAI BY MY SIDE.
THIS GUY
REALLY REGARDS GII AS AN IMPORTANT PERSON.
HIS WORDS ARE VAGUE AND UNCLEAR... BUT THEY'RE SPOKEN FROM HIS HEART.
I,
ALWAYS TOOK GII BEING BY MY SIDE FOR GRANTED.
BUT
HE...
IDIOT.

SORRY, MEIJI.
I'M ON JIRO'S SIDE NOW.
SO GIVE IT UP,
...HUH?
DON'T TRUST THOSE RUMORS SURROUNDING JIRO.
HE MAY NOT LOOK IT, BUT HE CAN'T DO ANYTHING WITHOUT ME!
WHAT...

...WELL THEN,
IF SENPAI SAYS THAT'S THE CASE, THEN THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO..
I UNDERSTAND.
.....

PLEASE LET
THE SHINIGAMI
TO THE UNDER-WORLD,
UNTIL THE DAY THAT SENPAI RETURNS
BAM
KURAKU MEIJI
TO STAY BY YOUR SIDE AS THE PRINCE'S ASSISTANT.
I HEARD FROM ENMA-SAMA
WHAT?

UNTIL THE MOMENT THAT THE PRINCE IS ABLE TO ACHIEVE HIS GOAL,
HEY!
I ALSO WANT TO USE WHAT LITTLE STRENGTH I HAVE TO HELP YOU!
WAIT
AND YOU ARE WORKING HARD TO TOPPLE THEIR LEADER!!
WELL
THAT THERE ARE POWERFUL FORCES APPROACHING THE DEMON WORLD

SORRY, BUT YOU MUST AGREE THAT THIS IS FATE ♥
he he
LISTEN TO ME—
PLEASE LIGHT THE WAY!
I WILL FOLLOW YOU NO MATTER WHERE YOU GO.

A HA HA HA
YOU ALREADY KNOW THE OUTCOME..
Fwip
NO
CAN'T I GO WATCH?
I WONDER IF MEIJI-KUN IS DOING ALRIGHT.

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紅い王子

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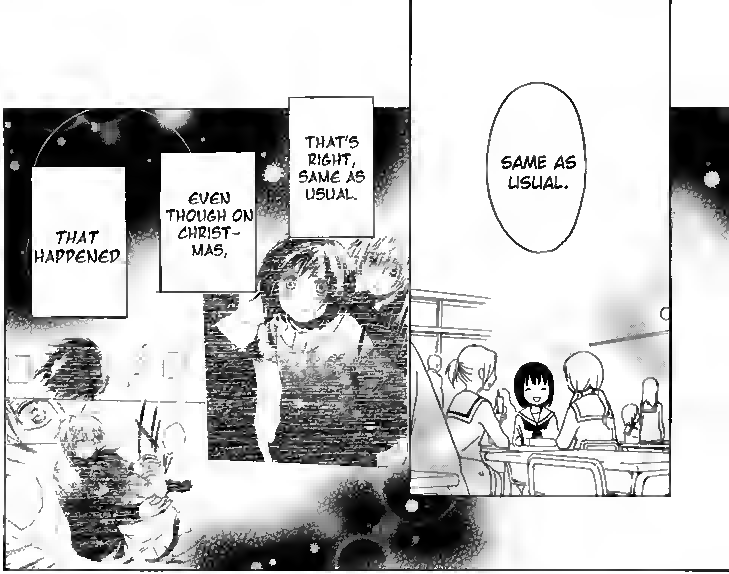
NOKIE SCANS

CHAPTER 25 Sakura

TODAY IS ALSO THE SAME AS ALWAYS.
chatter
chatter
chatter
chatter
chatter
I'M SORRY FOR THE WAIT!
JIRO-SAAAN.

..OH–
I BOUGHT LUNCH FOR YOU~
STEP
STEP
OVER
FLOWING
NO NO, IT'S NO-THING.
I DIDN'T EVEN ASK FOR ANYTHING, YOU SURE WORK HARD...
and this
Anyone watching would think you're an errand boy
OH, BUT I'M SORRY,
and this
FILLED UP
...slurp
HOW IS HANA-SAN DOING?
...MM–
.....
Did you want one? There's strawberry, banana and peach flavours.
THEY WERE ALL OUT OF TEA, SO ALL I COULD GET WERE SWEET DRINKS.
MM.


SAME AS USUAL.
THAT'S RIGHT, SAME AS USUAL.
EVEN THOUGH ON CHRIST-MAS,
THAT HAPPENED

HANA IS...
NO WAY!
No!
WHA-AAAT~
NO, ABSO-LUTELY NO WAY!
I'M GOING TO LOOK TOTALLY SUSPICIOUS IF SOMEONE LIKE YOU IS WITH ME!
BE-SIDES!
STAYING BY MY SIDE MEANS YOU'RE GOING TO END UP BY HANA'S SIDE AS WELL!!

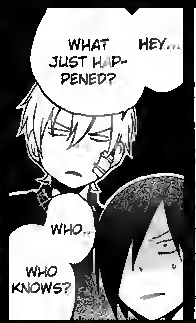
AWAKE NOW
JOLT
...MNG...
HUH..... JIRO...?
...MM
WHICH MEANS YOU'LL...
FREEZE
...THAT PERSON...
AH...
Dazed
.....
ARE THEY A GUEST?
SNAP
WHAT?
OH DEAR, WHY WAS I SLEEPING HERE?
Nooo
HUH...
I'M SO SORRY, I'LL CLEAN UP RIGHT NOW!
HA... HANG ON!
GRAB
HANA

HUH?!
WHAT... DO YOU ME..N... "WHAT"?
?
..WHAT?

...ERR
ARE YOU... OK?

W-WHAAAT !!?
PEEK
OH!
I'LL BRING SOME TEA RIGHT OVER SO PLEASE RELAX.
NO, NO, THAT'S....
STAR-TLED
Don't worry about it

DON'T GIVE ME THAT SHIT!! WHAT THE HELL WAS GOING ON UNTIL NOW?!
"WHO KNOWS"?
G A A A H!
I-I-I-I'M SORRY!! H-HOWEVER I DON'T KNOW EITHER...

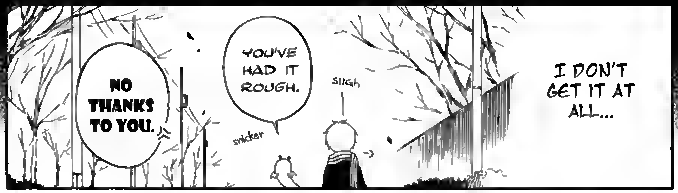

HEY...
WHAT JUST HAP-PENED?
WHO..
WHO KNOWS?

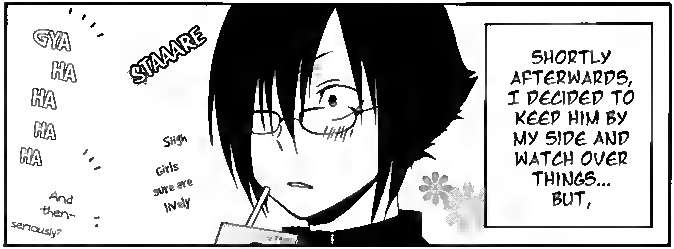
STEP
STEP
STEP

HEY JIRO—
AHHH !!
peek
JOLT
WH- WHAT?!
?
EVERYONE IS AT THE ENTRANCE, CALLING FOR YOU.
Jiroo— We've come to pick you up
Jiro-chi—?
stand in. Heeeeey!
.. OH
Ho Ho Ho
OHH.....
I could pierce someone
glance...
?
UH..
UM... PRINCE JUST WHAT IS THIS..
YOU SAID YOU'D HELP ME RIGHT?
Y- YES..
THAT... THAT IS TRUE BUT...

BAM
Part time
Welcome
IS THERE A REASON WHY I'M... STANDING HERE DRESSED LIKE THIS?
HM?
AH...WELL.... YEAH PROBABLY?
Welcome!!
YE- YESSIR!
SLAP
COME ON SON, PUT SOME FEELING INTO IT!!
EEP
DASH
RAN
WELL THAT'S SETTLED
Phew
ISN'T HE A PRETTY USEFUL GUY?
I CAN SEE WHY HE GETS PUSHED AROUND
step
THAT SAID,
AFTER SEEING HIM IN THOSE CLOTHES, IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE THAT HE WAS DRESSED IN BLACK UP UNTIL NOW..
WELL THAT'S JUST WHAT HE WEARS FOR WORK.
NORMALLY, SHINIGAMIS DRESS PRETTY SIMILARLY TO HUMANS.

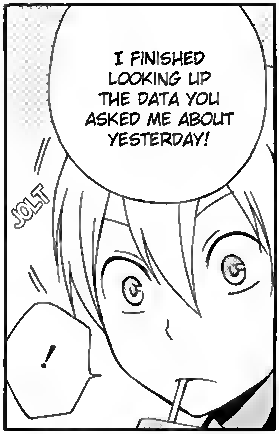
I'D RATHER SEE HIM WEAR NORMAL CLOTHING.....
dressed like that
TO BE HONEST IF HE FOLLOWED ME AROUND DRESSED LIKE THAT HE'D REALLY STAND OUT....
WELL IF THAT'S THE CASE...
GO AWAY!
A GUEST?
IS SHE UNABLE TO RECOGNISE HIM...?
hmmm
JUST BY PUTTING DOWN HIS HOOD AND TAKING OFF HIS MASK
.....
IN THE END SHE HAD COMPLETELY FORGOTTEN IT WAS CHRISTMAS
Have some tea
WHEN SHE WOKE UP,
Ah th- thanks
GO AWAAAAAAY
EVEN THOUGH SHE HAD SUCH AN EXTREME REACTION

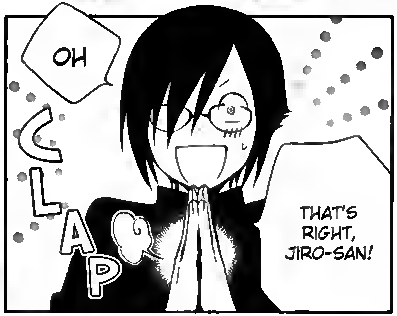

NO THANKS TO YOU.
YOU'VE HAD IT ROUGH.
snicker
sigh
I DON'T GET IT AT ALL...

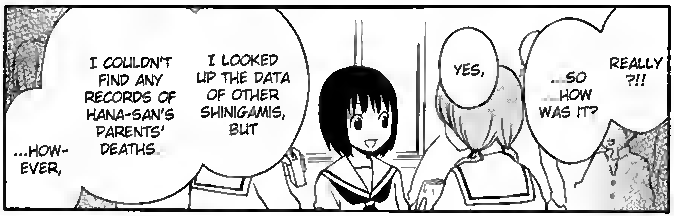

GYA HA HA HA HA
SHAAARE
Sigh
Girls sure are lively
And then seriously?
SHORTLY AFTERWARDS, I DECIDED TO KEEP HIM BY MY SIDE AND WATCH OVER THINGS... BUT,

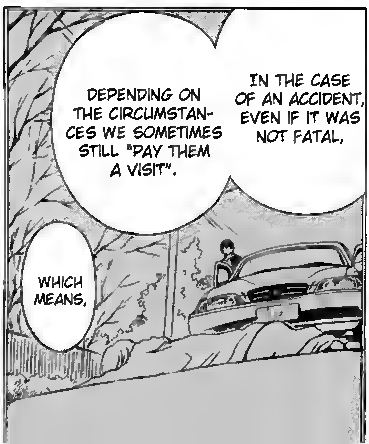
WHAT!!?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING!?
DAM-MIT
startled
SHURT
SLAM
SORRY!! DID YOU PREFER THE BANANA ONE!!?
clatter
Ah, hello Hana-san
Oh, welcome!
SLUU
UKP
SHE ISN'T EVEN WARY OF HIM...
What?
We're in the same class?
I hope we can get along
oh, banana is nice...
Already good friends

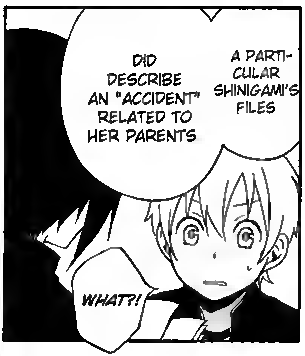
SLURP
Slurping
How?
Was I
wrong?
Snitch
Umm...
Umm...!
IGNORING.


I FINISHED LOOKING UP THE DATA YOU ASKED ME ABOUT YESTERDAY!
JOLT
!

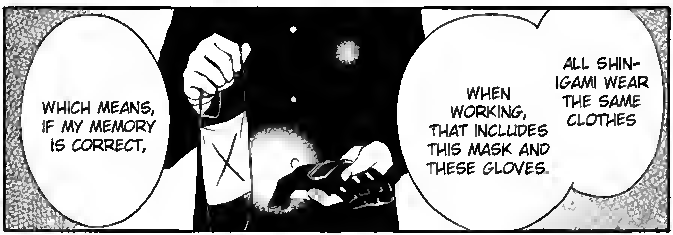

OH
CLAP
THAT'S RIGHT, JIRO-SAN!


...HOW-EVER,
I COULDN'T FIND ANY RECORDS OF HANA-SAN'S PARENTS' DEATHS.
I LOOKED UP THE DATA OF OTHER SHINIGAMIS, BUT
YES,
...SO HOW WAS IT?
REALLY ?!!


WHICH MEANS,
DEPENDING ON THE CIRCUMSTAN-CES WE SOMETIMES STILL "PAY THEM A VISIT".
IN THE CASE OF AN ACCIDENT, EVEN IF IT WAS NOT FATAL,


WHAT?!
DID DESCRIBE AN "ACCIDENT" RELATED TO HER PARENTS
A PARTI-CULAR SHINIGAMI'S FILES

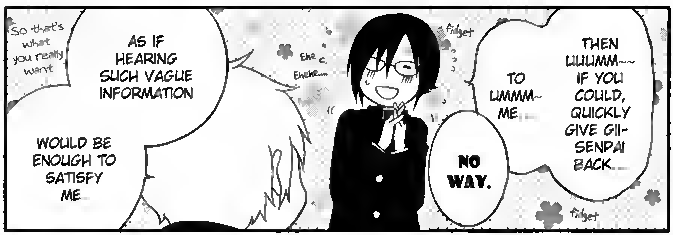
I BELIEVE THAT HANA-SAN CONFUSED "ME"...
FOR A "DIFFERENT SHINIGAMI" WHOM SHE HAD "MADE A PROMISE" WITH.


ALL SHINIGAMI WEAR THE SAME CLOTHES
WHEN WORKING, THAT INCLUDES THIS MASK AND THESE GLOVES.
WHICH MEANS, IF MY MEMORY IS CORRECT,

IT'S POSSIBLE FOR HANA-SAN TO, DURING THIS TIME, HAVE MET
THAT SHINIGAMI.
A DIFFERENT "SHINIGAMI"?
THAT'S RIGHT, SOMEONE... WHO ISN'T ME

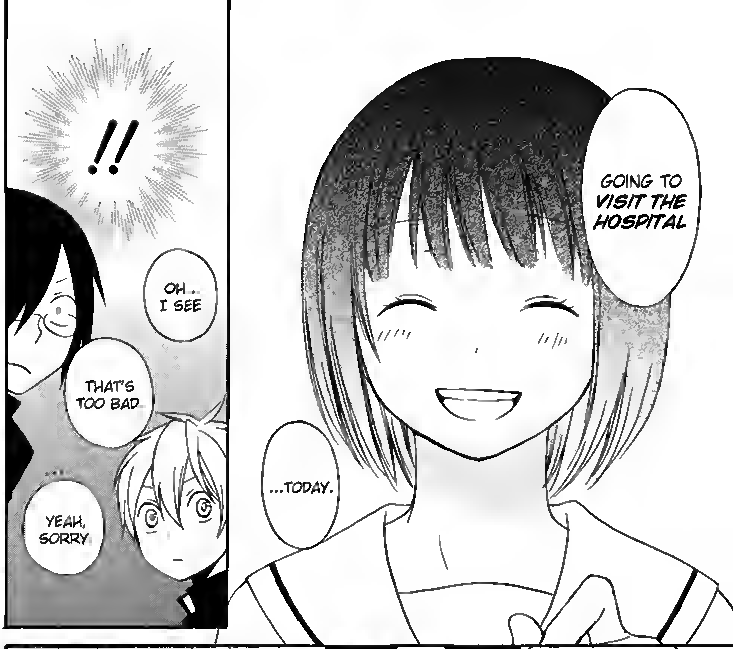
HANA MET A "DIFFERENT SHINIGAMI"...?
...WHICH MEANS...
.....I'M SORRY.
IF WE...
INVESTIGATE HIM. THAT SHINIGAMI, WE MIGHT LEARN SOMETHING ABOUT IT?
WHO IS IT?
IS THERE A WAY FOR US TO MEET WITH THEM?
.....
THE SHINIGAMI'S INFORMATION IS DISPLAYED AS AN ID NUMBER.
SO I DON'T KNOW WHO IT IS
SHOCKED
ENDED UP BEING USELESS.
I EXPECTED SO MUCH FROM YOU ..AND THIS IS WHAT I GET?
SORRY...
sniff
whimper
.....

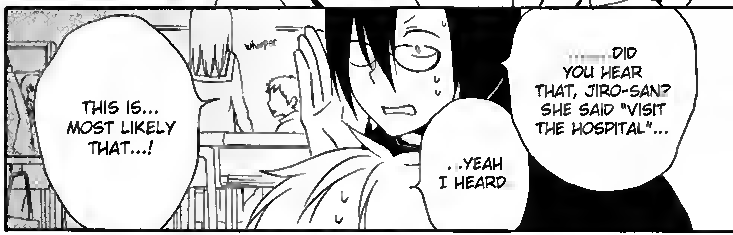
"Saving the Demon World from imminent peril"!
WHAT'S "THAT"?
WHAT ELSE BUT
clench
U-ULUM, JIRO-SAN
I ERR... COMPLEEETELY UNDERSTAND THAT YOU'RE VERY INTERESTED IN HANA-SAN.
fidget
FLUSH
H-...HOWEVER I BELIEVE THAAAT
IT WOULD BE MUUUUCH BETTER TO CLEAR THAT UP FIRST~~...
HUH?
Hana-san Blushes Over


So that's what you really want
AS IF HEARING SUCH VAGUE INFORMATION
WOULD BE ENOUGH TO SATISFY ME
Eek
Eeeek...
fidget
TO UMMM~ ME...
NO WAY.
THEN UUUMM~~ IF YOU COULD, QUICKLY GIVE GI-SENPAI BACK...
fidget

JUST WHO ON EARTH IS THE "BAD GUY"?
LET'S GO DEFEAT THEM RIGHT NO~W~
ARE YOU SURE ABOUT THAT?
ARR-RGG~
OK?
I'LL HELP YOU OUT TOO~~~~
WELL, SHOULDN'T IT BE FINE AFTER EVERYTHING TO DO WITH HANA-SAN IS FINISHED UP?
DRA—G
DRA—G
SO PLEASE JUST TELL ME ALREADY—

WHA...
IF ANY-THING WERE TO HAPPEN TO HANA,
YOU WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO HAVE ANY MORE OF THAT BROWN RICE TEA OR DAIFUKU YOU'RE SO FOND OF
WHIS PER
HEY HANA—
EXACTLY WHAT I SAID.
Huh?
...WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?
OH, HAVE YOU MADE PLANS AL-READY?
HM? YOU'RE NOT WORK-ING TODAY RIGHT?
AH.. SORRY I CAN'T TODAY...
UMM WELL... I'M..
DO YOU WANT TO COME WITH US?
WE'RE ALL GONNA STOP BY THE NEAR STATION ON THE WAY HOME,
There's a sale right now!
STAND
CLATTER


GOING TO VISIT THE HOSPITAL
...TODAY.
!!
OH.. I SEE
THAT'S TOO BAD
YEAH, SORRY


.....DID YOU HEAR THAT, JIRO-SAN? SHE SAID "VISIT THE HOSPITAL"...
..YEAH I HEARD
THIS IS... MOST LIKELY THAT...!

SHE'S "VISITING" HER PARENTS!
THAT REMINDS ME, SHE ONCE MENTIONED
VISITING THE HOSPITAL BUT I NEVER ASKED HER WHEN SHE GOES, SO I DON'T KNOW...

YOU CANNOT START ANYTHING WITHOUT KNOWING THE "TRUTH".
WE SHOULD LEARN ALL THAT WE CAN, NO MATTER HOW TRIVIAL
DON'T YOU WANT TO SOLVE THE "MYSTERIES" SURROUNDING HANA-SAN?
THEN YOU SHOULD PRIORITIZE YOUR MISSION, EVEN IF YOU HAVE TO ACT IMMORALLY.

GINT
WELL, WE NOW HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO FOLLOW HER
HUH?
BY DOING SO WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO FIND OUT SOMETHING NEW!
NO..... BUT..
clench
SPIN
JIRO-SAN
!?
VOLT

WHA...
—AT ARE YOU SAYING
ALL OF A SUDDEN
.....
I MAY CURRENTLY BE ACTING LIKE I'M HERE TO PICK UP SOMEONE, HOWEVER...
WE "SHINIGAMI", BY NATURE, ARE NOT THE ALLIES OF "HUMANS".
WE SEND THEM TO THEIR "DEATHS"...
YOU COULD SAY THAT
OUR EXISTENCE IS CLOSER TO THAT OF YOU "DEMONS"
...WHY IS THERE A NEED FOR YOU TO HESITATE?
ARE YOU NOT... A "DEMON"?

SHE DOESN'T SEE IT AS ANYONE ELSE'S BUSINESS... AND SPEAKS LIGHTLY OF IT.
...BUT
FROM HERE ON OUT, NOTHING WILL CHANGE.
WITH THE WAY THINGS ARE, NOTHING WILL CHANGE.
WHAT MEIJI SAYS IS TRUE.
I THINK THAT WHAT YOU DEMONS DO TO HUMANS,
REGARDLESS OF THE KIND OF ACTIONS, IS MERELY NATURAL FOR YOU
"NATURAL" FOR A
DEMON...
HANA IS MY "TARGET".
IN THE FIRST PLACE...
IT'S NOT LIKE I NEED TO HOLD BACK AGAINST "HUMANS".
AFTER ALL,
...
THAT'S TRUE.
I MEAN...

BA
DU
!!!
MP
...TH-
RIGHT?
DEMON MODE: ON
SMIRK
I AM A "DEMON".
THAT'S RIGHT! THAT'S THE SPIRIT!
Cheer
YEAH, I'LL DO IT.
You're so cool!
DUNNO.
So loud
Cheer
?
WHAT ARE THEY GETTING EXCITED OVER?

SEEING A NEEDLE IS ENOUGH TO RENDER HIM USELESS.
HOSPITALS.. TO ME, THEY ARE THE STUFF OF NIGHTMARES..
There are heaps of ghosts
and a lot of injured people
SHAKE
SHAKE
THE PHRASE "SITTING DUCK" ISN'T EVEN BEFITTING OF YOU.
I'M SORRY BUT IT'S IMPOSSIBLE. I CAN'T GO IN, SORRY.
DISTRESSED
shudder
shudder
IT'S ALWAYS LIKE THIS.
shudder
I'M SO SORRY.. I COULD BE OF NO USE TO YOU..
I'LL GO ON MY OWN THEN.
—GEEZ
ANYHOW, IT'S BEEN A WHILE
RUN
sniff
Senpai that was mean

SINCE I'VE SEEN JIRO LOOK SO "DEMON"-LIKE.
510
SO THIS IS THE ROOM...
sneak
PEER
slide
SO THAT'S HER MOTHER...
AH... SHE'S THERE TALKING...
PRETTY LIVELY... I CAN'T SEE ANY INJURIES.
510
I THOUGHT THEY'D BE PRETTY BAD SINCE A SHINIGAMI CAME...
...SHE LOOKS
...OH...

GASP
OH MY, IT'S ALREADY THIS LATE.
I'D BETTER BE OFF NOW.
...WELL,
WHERE IS HER "FATHER"...
THAT REMINDS ME.
...HUH
FOR THE SAKURA TO START BLOOMING AGAIN.
TIME
IT'S NEARLY
I'M SURE *THEY* WILL COME FOR ME SOON.
I'M USED TO WAITING SO IT'S FINE.
BUT,
.....
IT LOOKS LIKE I'LL HAVE TO STAY THIS YEAR AS WELL.

UNTIL THEN,
YEAH.
I'LL KEEP VISITING YOU.
HA HA
THANKS, HANA-CHAN.
SAY HI TO YOUR "MOTHER" FOR ME.
Koumeda Sakura
YEAH, I'LL COME VISIT AGAIN, "SAKURA-SAN".

slide...
Close

tap
tap
..."SAKURA"?
squeak...
Koumeda Sakura
.. HER NAME...
...BUT THAT CONVERSATION WAS

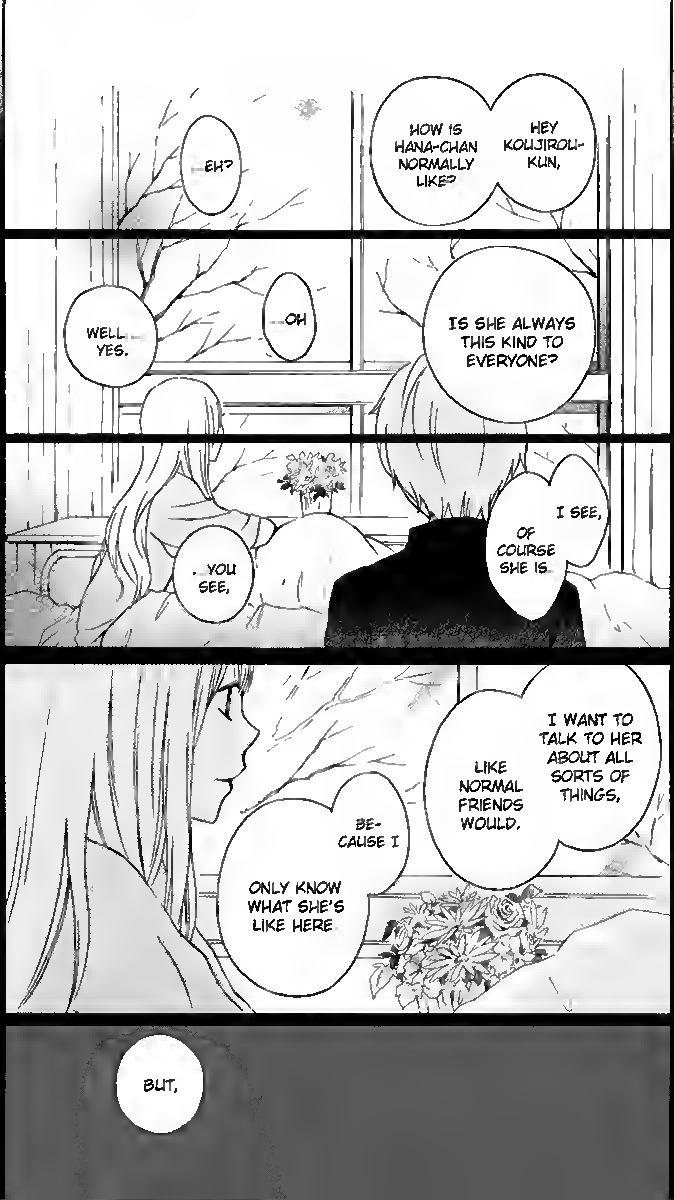
SIDE
KIND OF...
...OH?
WHAT'S THE MATTER...
DO YOU
HAVE BUSINESS WITH ME?

BA-DUMP
AH...
I AM...
UM ..
BA-DUMP
BA-DUMP
BA-DUMP
HA...
HANA'S
BOY-FRIEND?
YES?
NO WAY!
BA-DUMP
THEY... LOOK ALIKE...

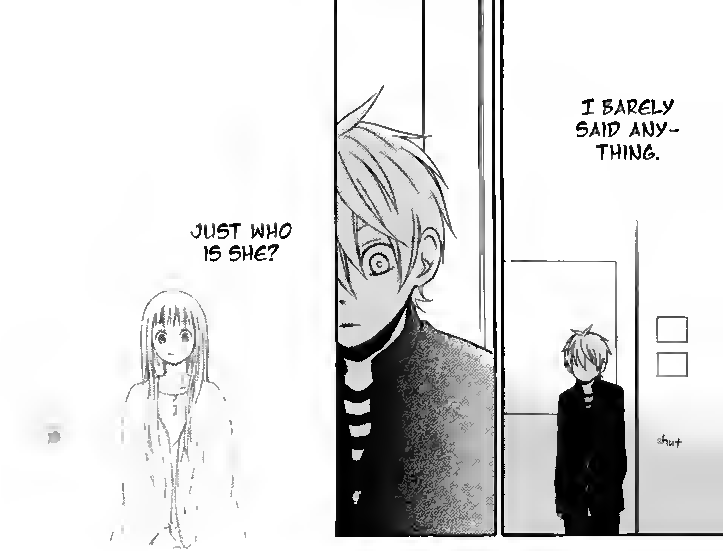
H-HOUSE!
WE LIVE IN THE SAME HOUSE...
WHAAAT?!
Y-YOU'RE LIVING TOGETHER?!!
KYAAAA
HAH?!
NO, I'M RENTING A ROOM...
AWW, SO YOU'RE FRIENDS THEN—
KYAAAAAAA
SHE SHOULD HAVE TOLD ME SHE HAS SUCH A HANDSOME BOYFRIEND~~
Oh my~
EH?! AH, NO, YOU'RE MISTAKEN!!
Y-YEAH KINDA ..
ERR...
DID HANA-CHAN TELL YOU ABOUT ME?
I SEE
HAHA
HUH
SO THAT MEANS YOU'RE HERE TO VISIT TOO, THEN?
WELL...
EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE HERE TO VISIT HANA-CHAN'S MOTHER,
YOU WENT OUT OF YOUR WAY TO SEE ME TOO
THANKS FOR TAKING THE TROUBLE.

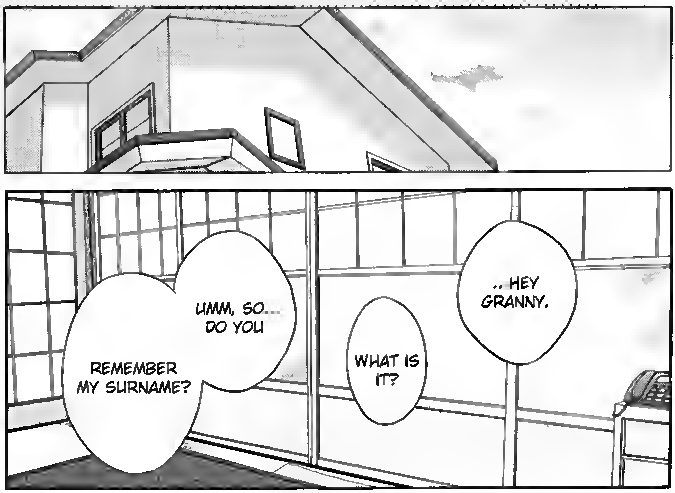
...EH?
YOU SEE, HANA-CHAN ALWAYS STOPS BY WHENEVER SHE COMES TO VISIT HER MOTHER.
LOOK, SHE EVEN BROUGHT FLOWERS.
I'M SURE IT'S BECAUSE I'M ALWAYS ALONE COMPLAINING ABOUT HOW BORING IT IS HERE
I GUESS SHE'S LOOKING OUT FOR ME.

SO,
WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
...AH...
SAKU—...
SAKURA-SAN
.....
IT'S KOUJIROU.
"KOUJIROU-KUN"?
AH— WHAT A COOL NAME!


HEY KOUJIROU-KUN,
HOW IS HANA-CHAN NORMALLY LIKE?
EH?
IS SHE ALWAYS THIS KIND TO EVERYONE?
OH
WELL... YES.
I SEE, OF COURSE SHE IS.
YOU SEE,
I WANT TO TALK TO HER ABOUT ALL SORTS OF THINGS,
LIKE NORMAL FRIENDS WOULD.
BE-CAUSE I ONLY KNOW WHAT SHE'S LIKE HERE.
BUT,

UNFAIR FOR HER?
DON'T YOU THINK THAT MAKING HER VISIT SOME STRANGER SHE ONLY HAPPENED TO MEET
THAT'S WHY I GUESS IT'S BETTER THE WAY THINGS ARE...
HER COMING OCCASIONALLY TO TALK IS ENOUGH TO MAKE ME HAPPY...
AH, KEEP THIS A SECRET FROM HER OK?
THANKS FOR COMING, KOUJIROU-KUN.

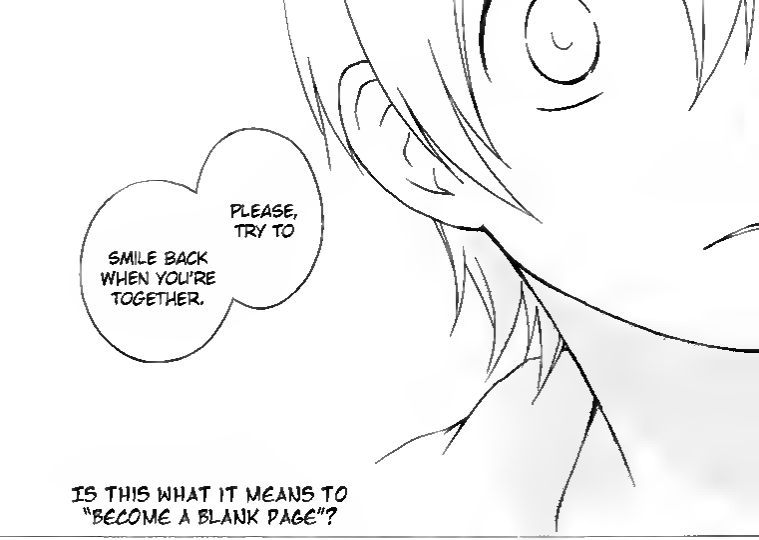

I BARELY SAID ANY-THING.
shut
JUST WHO IS SHE?


.. HEY GRANNY.
WHAT IS IT?
UMM, SO... DO YOU REMEMBER MY SURNAME?

.....
WHY'RE YOU ASKING ALL OF A SUDDEN...
.....IT'S "SAKURA".
THE TRUTH IS
YOU DON'T LIKE SAYING THAT NAME
INSIDE THIS HOUSE, RIGHT?
.....
THAT YOU'VE MET HER THEN?
DOES THIS MEAN...
..I SEE.
THEN YOU UNDERSTAND WHY.

...IS IT AMNESIA?
.. WELL, IT'S SORT OF LIKE THAT.
SORT OF?
IT'S ONLY WHEN IT COMES TO "HANA"
AFTER THE ACCIDENT,
SAKURA BECAME A "BLANK PAGE".
BUT ONLY IN REGARDS TO HER DAUGHTER "HANA".

掲載・月刊少年ガンガン平成20年12月号～平成21年5月号



IS THIS WHAT IT MEANS TO "BECOME A BLANK PAGE"?

AT THAT TIME I WAS UNABLE TO

THINK ABOUT MY POSITION, OR MY MISSION.

KURENAI OUJI 5 END

紅の王子
くれないのおうじ

is able to zip all the way up
I'm sorry
Sketch pages.
Early idea for the drama CD cover
Joke for the drama CD
he he
SHUDDER
Welcome (sweet voice)
Geez
Hardworker
Ya—y
Mm—m
Welcome back
Bro
Yay
Yay!
Lots of A.J brothers

easily gets depressed
down-hearted
So hoooot
Fuwaaah so cooool
Barely a middle schooler
TENSE
hyuk hyuk hyuk hyuk
Drawing little kids is fun
Little Issa

Special Thanks!

Ryouta-kun
matoba-chan

My family and relatives
All of my friends

My editor, Shimamura-san

To everyone involved in the
production of this book

And everyone
supporting me ˘

* · *

Thank you very much!!
May we meet again in the next volume!

Kuwahara Souta ˘ᵕ˘

ガンガンコミックス

紅心王子 5

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